MONDAY
July 14, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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VACANCIES FILLED

Ex-Foreign Secretary, 3 others nominated to RS

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MULTIFACETED ARTIST

Veteran Telugu actor Kota Srinivasa Rao passes away

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AAIB REPORT

No urgent worries over Boeing 787s: U.S. FAA

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IMPLICIT TO EXPLICIT

The evolution of secularism

What the supporters of a theocratic state fail to understand

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FLUCTUATING FORTUNES

Washington shines, but India wobbles

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Foreigners found in Bihar rolls, says EC; INDIA questions data

Poll body says large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar found during house-to-house verification by BLOs; names of such people will not be included in the final list, it says; INDIA bloc rejects claim, slams roll revision process

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
Amit Bhelari
NEW DELHI/PATNA

The Election Commission on Sunday said that a large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar were found during house-to-house verification of electoral rolls as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) process in Bihar. The names of such people will not be included in the final voter list to be published on September 30, it added.

The SIR began on June 25 and the last date for voters to submit enumeration forms given by booth-level officers (BLOs) is July 25, following which a draft list will be brought out on August 1. The EC said a proper enquiry will be conducted after the draft list is released. The poll body's move is significant in view of the Assembly polls scheduled next year in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu, and comes as various States are cracking down on illegal immigrants from countries including Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Crucial data: Enumeration activities going on at Nawada for the Bihar poll roll revision on Sunday. ANI

Earlier, leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had jointly attacked the EC, alleging contradictions and democratic concerns in the data related to the SIR process presented by the poll body on Saturday. The leaders, including Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, said that such shortcomings call into question "public trust" in the process. He alleged that fake data were being uploaded on EC sites.

Listing out the alleged shortcomings, Mr. Yadav said the EC had claimed that 80.11% of voters had submitted the enumeration forms, but it had not announced how many of these forms were filled in a verified, voluntary, and valid manner.

Mr. Yadav also rejected the EC's claim that a large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar were found during SIR process.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Nipah death in Palakkad leads to alert in six districts

Abdul Latheef Naha
PALAKKAD

A fresh Nipah case in Palakkad district of Kerala has sparked fears that the deadly virus is still lurking despite efforts by the health authorities to contain its spread.

Palakkad reported the second Nipah case on Saturday night as a 58-year-old man from Kumaramputhur near Mannarkkad tested positive for the virus after his death in a private hospital at Perinthalmanna. He had been under treatment at the hospital with fever.

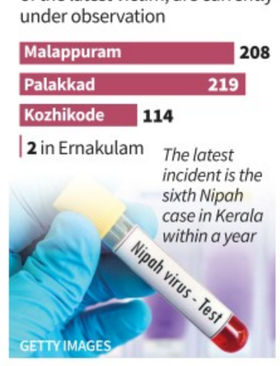
Even before the official confirmation from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, came, health authorities in Palakkad and Malappuram districts swiftly initiated contact tracing for individuals who interacted with him over the past three weeks. As many as 46 people who were in contact with the infected person have been traced.

Apart from the two districts, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Kannur, and Wayanad districts have also been put on alert.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Close watch

As many as **543 persons** across Kerala, including **46 contacts** of the latest victim, are currently under observation



NEARBY

Tourists throng monsoon destinations

BENGALURU
With reservoirs and waterfalls flowing full, tourists in Karnataka are thronging monsoon destinations like Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Sakleshpur. » PAGE 2

Discussion on leadership issue continues

BENGALURU
Days after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reiterated that he would be in the post for the full five-year term, confusion over the leadership in the Congress seems to persist.

» PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » 4 PAGES

Game for this too

People playing a game of volleyball in Mangaluru on Sunday. The event was organised by the Hindu Yuva Sena as part of the 'Kesardoji Dina' (a day in a slush field). H.S. MANJUNATH

Early, ample rain reduces power consumption

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The early monsoon, unseasonal rain, and good quantum of showers have resulted in electricity consumption in Karnataka remaining lower than the expectations of the Energy Department.

The electricity consumption was lower than the previous years, touching a three-year low in May with 7,283 million units (MU).

Generally, between March and June, electricity consumption peaks in the State as summer sets in, and both domestic and agricultural demand goes up.

Electricity consumption in Karnataka in April – June (in million units)

Month	2023	2024	2025
April	8,641	9,388	8,748
May	7,551	7,774	7,283
June	7,351	6,416	6,762

In 2023, April saw a consumption of 8,641 MU followed by 7,551 MU in May, and 7,351 MU in June. In 2024, consumption soared in April (9,388 MU) and May (7,774 MU) as 2023 was a drought year and demand was consistently up until it rained in June 2024.

Consumption

In 2025, the State consumed 8,748 MU in April, 7,283 MU in May, and 6,762 MU in the monsoon month of June.

This year, monsoon set in earlier than usual over Karnataka on May 26. The State also received a record rainfall of 245.2 mm in the month, making it the highest quantum (for the month of May) since 1901, according to the data shared by India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The State further received 8% surplus rain in June, even as some districts in South Interior Karnataka (SIK) witnessed a shortfall.

"Around January 31, electricity demand in the State started peaking and we were prepared for it to go up during the summer months. We were expecting consumption to go over 350 MU a day, but it stagnated at around 320-330 MU per day. After May 16-17, due to pre-monsoon activity and the subsequent early onset of monsoon, the demand was subdued and after monsoon began, the consumption came down to 230-240 MU per day. Due to good rainfall, domestic, agricultural and industrial loads went down," explained Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

'Users of polluting cooking fuel may be at a higher risk of cognitive impairment'

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A recent study published in *The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia* has found that users of polluting cooking fuel may be at a higher risk for cognitive impairment.

Highlighting the need for policies promoting the adoption of clean cooking fuel/technology, the study found that rural females, who tend to be more exposed than males, could have greater vulnerability to household air pollution's (HAP) adverse effects on the brain.

A team of researchers from the Centre for Brain Research at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and University of Chicago, United States, used baseline data from participants of the ongoing prospective cohort study, Centre for Brain Research - Srinivaspura Aging, Neuro Senescence, and COGnition (CBR-SANSCOG). Data was collected between January 2018 and December 2023. Under the CBR-SANSCOG cohort, adults aged over 45 from the villages of Srinivaspura taluk in Kolar district were recruited. Of the sample size of 4,145 adults, 994 participants who passed the MRI quality control were included in the MRI analysis.

Household air pollution primarily results from the use of coal, biomass, and earthen stoves, as well as polluting fuels. FILE PHOTO

Household air pollution

HAP is a specific type of indoor air pollution, which primarily results from the use of polluting cooking technology – coal stoves, biomass stoves, chullahs (earthen stoves) and polluting fuels such as firewood, cow dung cake, coal, lignite or charcoal, and kerosene, in and around the house, leading to the production of gaseous toxins. While HAP from polluting cooking fuels, a rampant issue in rural India, is suspected to be a significant modifiable risk factor for cognitive impairment, evidence supported by neuroimaging in this population was lacking. "Our study aimed to explore the relationship between polluting cooking technology, as a proxy for HAP, and cognitive performance, and brain morphology in the Srinivaspura cohort. We hypothesised that HAP exposure is associated with poorer cognitive performance and adverse brain morphology in this population. We also examined how factors such as age and sex affected this association and complemented our findings with insights from structural brain MRI," one of the authors from the CBR team told *The Hindu*.

Cognitive functions

According to the study, only polluting cooking technology users had significantly lower scores in global cognition, visuospatial ability and executive functions, whereas at least one polluting cooking technology user had lower scores in global cognition only, compared to the clean cooking technology users.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

Four persons killed in accident on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four persons were killed when a car lost control and crashed into the parapet wall of the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway on the outskirts of Ramanagara early on Sunday.

The incident occurred at Jayapura gate. The dead have been identified as Thammanna Gowda, 27, Muthuraj, 55, Sanju, 28, and car driver Sachin, 27.

The victims hailed from Mandya and K.R. Pet and were on their way to attend a family function in Ramanagara.

The driver, who was reportedly speeding, lost control and crashed into the parapet wall. Due to the impact, the car overturned and was heavily damaged.

The car which crashed into the parapet wall of the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway on the outskirts of Ramanagara early on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Ramanagara traffic police have registered a case of death owing to rash and negligent driving against the driver.

Initial probe revealed fatigue could be the main reason for the accident as the driver was sleep-deprived the previous night. The police suggested that drivers, especially those covering long distance, avoid late night and early morning journeys and get a good eight-hour sleep.

Due to the increasing competition among young people who take up cab driving, many often tend to overwork without rest, leading to such accidents, the police said.

Rahul — versatility and adaptability are his middle names

The experienced batter is now making the most of being given clarity about his role; solid defensive play and the nonchalance with which he leaves balls are key traits of his batsmanship

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik
LONDON

It must be so easy to take K.L. Rahul for granted. Wait, that's what India have been doing for quite a while, right?

One of Rahul's great attributes is his versatility. His adaptability. His uncomplaining nature, his willingness to everything and more than is asked of him. Hang on, doesn't that bring back memories of another stalwart with the same first name, hailing from the same city?

It won't an exaggeration to state that what Rahul Dravid once did, his namesake is now doing. And doing very well of late, as even numbers which are usually open to convenient interpretation will testify.

One of the great mysteries of the modern game is how someone of Rahul's enormous ability still doesn't seem to have completely cracked the Test code. True, he has been moved up and down the order, especially in the last 18 months or so, but he has been around for over a decade and already boasts 60 Test caps. Now in his 61st Test, the 33-year-old averages in the mid-30s, far too few by anyone's estimation. But make no mistake, he is on a mission to correct that, to right the wrongs of the past, to keep up his end of the bargain as the most senior specialist batter in a young Test line-up, to ensure that his all-round prowess doesn't go against him.

Sometimes, the greatest attribute that we alluded to earlier can work against an individual, which is exactly why Rahul has been shunted up and down the Test batting order since the tour of South Africa in 2023-24. Out of favour when it comes to Twenty20 Internationals, he has a settled role in the ODI set-up, as a middle-order batter/finisher and wicketkeeper. Such is his felicity in that job description that even someone as outrageously gifted as Rishabh Pant is unable to break back into the 50-over setup.

Well-defined role

Now, it would appear, Rahul has belatedly been given a well-defined role in the five-day game - as the all-weather opener whose twin responsibilities are to form the bedrock of the batting group and eke out his own runs, while taking the younger bunch along with him, striking up partnerships, embracing a mentoring role and sharing his wisdom, experience and tribulations, all of it aplenty.

This clarity is working wonders. Five innings into the ongoing Test series in England, Rahul has 336 runs at an average of 67.20. His string of scores reads 42 and 137 (Leeds), 2 and 55 (Birmingham) and 100 (first innings at Lord's), making it the first time he has made more than one

REUTERS

century in a Test series. Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant have hogged the limelight, the former with his extraordinary consistency and the latter with his extraordinary presence, while Rahul has chipped away quietly in the background, building a formidable wall brick by solid brick.

It was fascinating to listen to him speak about his approach to opening in Tests and how the template changes depending on conditions. When the ball is doing a lot, he says, and when there is a ball with his name on it just round the corner, he isn't averse to pulling a multitude of strokes out of his bag, not unwilling to unsettle the bowlers' rhythm, not afraid to try to transfer the pressure. But when the pitches are good for batting, like they have been on this tour, he slips back to what comes best and most naturally to him - grind out big scores, pick his areas to score, keep his ego firmly in check.

Just on Friday evening, a very senior English journalist who has been on the job for more than a half-century was raving about Rahul's correctness. About the ease of his movements, about his flowing cover-drives, yes, but also his solid defensive play and the nonchalance with which he leaves balls. Sadagopan Ramesh, the former India opener, once revealed that the greatest advice he had received in his early days in first-class cricket was from Dravid, who urged him to 'learn to love leaving the ball'. Clearly, this 'new' Rahul has imbibed that philosophy because he doesn't get flustered if he is kept scoreless for long periods, he doesn't feel the itch of a static scoreboard.

Batting on flat decks might appear straightforward, but clearly, it is not. Despite cricket's reputation as being a 'batsman's (now batters') game', all it takes is one ball to get them out. A bowler can go for five sixes in an over and still have the last laugh. A batter doesn't have the same luxury; one mistake can be, and often is, the last.

To bat against fresh pace bowlers on a yet-to-be-used surface on the first morning of any game is an enormous challenge, which is magnified by the quality of the attack one is confronted with. It is to Rahul's enormous credit that eight of his ten Test centuries have come outside the subcontinent and seven of those as an opener, including three now in England and two at Lord's alone. Somehow, it is befitting that stately Lord's, steeped in tradition and history, has brought the best out of the traditionalist that is Rahul. It appears an organic, natural fit.

Rahul is as eloquent with words as he is elegant with the bat, and you can hear the gears click in his head - not jarringly - as he pauses in thought before throwing light on how he has been preparing mentally. The physical effort, including long hours at practice sessions, are there for everyone to see. This is a team where so many players love to bat at nets, among them Gill and Rahul's opening partner, Yashasvi Jaiswal. Rahul keeps pace with these youngsters, often the first to arrive at practice and the last to leave, batting not just time but also with focus as he aims to address potentially tricky issues.

The mental processes, however, are anything but obvious. Unless the protagonists themselves are willing to throw light. "In the last couple of years, I have worked on a few mental drills," Rahul acknowledged, warming to the theme of mental discipline and fronting up mentally fresh innings after innings, Test after Test. "I have spent a bit of time with an expert who can help me with improving my reaction time and some mental drills and games that you can play that help you get better with your reaction time and stuff like that. A lot of other sports use it.

"I have seen this in Formula One and I picked this up from one of the guys that I worked with in Salzburg (Austria). "I am closely associated with Red Bull, so I had the opportunity to go there and work with some of the coaches that work with the elite Formula One guys and other adventure sports people who require a lot of this mental side of the game. That is the only thing that has been different in the last year or so. "But I have always enjoyed batting long periods of time. When I was growing up, even when I played junior cricket, I always enjoyed batting long hours, I could focus for long hours. A bit of that and a bit of this has helped me in the last few years."

It's amazing how Rahul has been able to strike fruitful alliances with batters who are completely different from him in approach and mindset. He has had numerous meaningful opening associations with Jaiswal as well as in the middle of the innings with Pant, two left-handers with an aggressive mindset. The rangy Jaiswal is more in the conventional mould while Pant is anything but that, a revolving door of immense surprises and untold delight (occasionally exasperation too). At Lord's, Rahul and Pant put on 141 for the fourth wicket, a wonderful alliance of the classical and the unique, of soulful jazz at one end and uninhibited heavy metal at the other.

When Rahul speaks of Pant, it is with wonderment - a touch of envy too, perhaps?! - and utter and complete respect. "I thoroughly enjoy batting with him," he couldn't help the smile that brought out his dimples. "When we are batting together, I look at the way he bats and I wish and I hope I could do that. Some days, I sit where there are no games and dream of playing shots like that and playing with that kind of a mindset and attitude. It will remain a dream.

"We do chat quite a lot about cricket and batting and the technical bit of batting as well. We were both injured and at the NCA back in Bengaluru and we would see each other every day. That's probably the first time I realised there is a lot of thought behind how he bats. He is a deep thinker of the game."

As is Rahul. He has other varied interests but when he is around cricket, he is totally committed to the sport, always looking for ways and means to improve on a personal level and contribute to the team, for methods to help out his new captain. "That is something I have stressed on a daily basis," he reflected on his 'seniormost specialist batter' status. "My mindset or my hunger or my passion towards the team has always been there. But in the last few years, the performance has also reflected that."

Numerous times in the past, Rahul has begun a series superbly before tapering off midway through, prompting suggestions before this series that someone should get into his head and convince him that this is a ten-Test showdown. Maybe that's what someone has done, because his consistency has been second to none and the simplicity of his game coupled with the steel in his eye suggest he is anything but satisfied. Maybe these aren't the 'English conditions' that were once romanticised and feared in equal parts, but there must be a certain joy in living up to expectations - one's own - that can't be matched. Rahul's expectations of himself, one can rest assured, are neither modest nor minimalistic.

THE GIST

- It is to Rahul's enormous credit that eight of his 10 Test centuries have come outside the subcontinent and seven of those as an opener
- Rahul has been able to strike fruitful alliances with batters who are completely different from him in approach and mindset
- Numerous times in the past, Rahul has begun a series superbly before tapering off midway through

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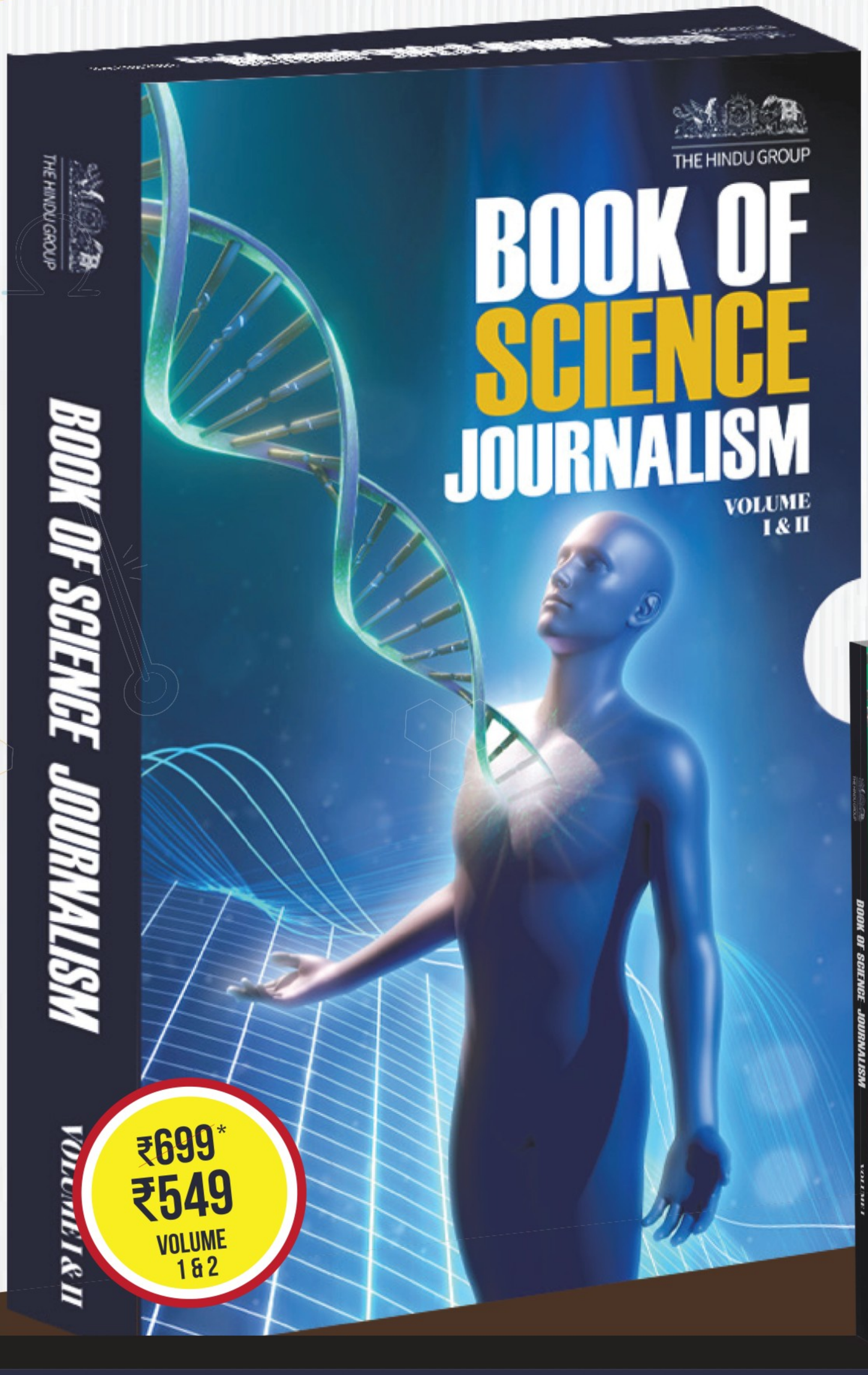

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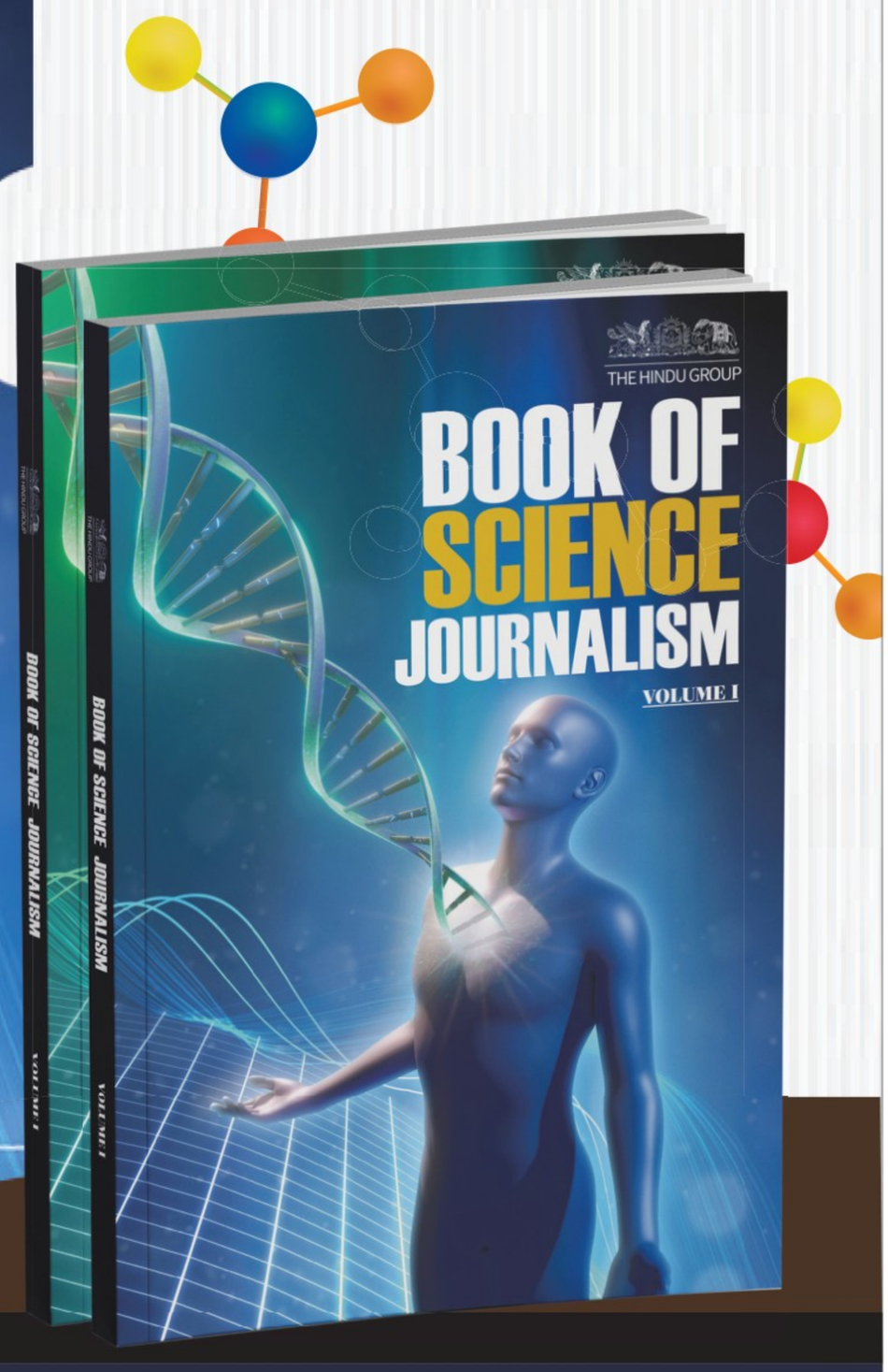

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Tourists throng monsoon destinations in State

Many waterfalls in the State, including the famous Gaganachukki – Bharachukki falls, Jog falls, and Abbey falls, are all flowing in full strength and attracting tourists

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

With reservoirs and waterfalls flowing full, tourists in Karnataka are thronging monsoon destinations like Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Sakleshpur in Hassan district to catch a glimpse of the water bodies and enjoy the rainfall.

Many waterfalls in the State including the famous Gaganachukki – Bharachukki falls in Chamarajanagara, Jog falls in Shivamogga, and Abbey falls in Kodagu are all flowing in full strength and attracting tourists.

Tourists at Mullayanagiri in Chikkamagaluru district. The demand for such tourism destinations is expected to continue across the State until the beginning of October. PTI

"Monsoon tourism has definitely picked up this year. The demand has almost doubled for our Madikeri, Jog falls and Gaganachukki - Bharachukki packages," said an official from the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation.

Private tour operators also reported similar trends and said that early monsoons have had a role to play in people planning their travels. "Karnataka continues to shine as one of the most popular monsoon tourism destinations in India, known for its lush landscapes and serene getaways. This year, we've observed approximately 23% growth in hotel bookings across key locations reflecting the growing interest in exploring the State during the rains," said Manjari Singhal, Chief Growth and Business Officer, Cleartrip, an online travel agency.

She also said, "Additionally, flights to Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and Mysuru have seen an 8% spike in bookings, further highlighting the region's appeal."

Apart from enjoying the monsoons, adventure activities are also seeing more takers in these destinations.

"The online tickets for the Tadiandamol trek, which is the highest trek in Kodagu, were sold out the last three weekends despite there being heavy rainfall alerts. We are seeing heightened demand for trekking and even rafting among tourists. When compared to last year, there has been around 30% increase in the arrival of tourists," said Sagar Ganapathy, treasurer of Coorg Hotels and Resorts Association.

Inflated prices

With increased demand, the prices in hotels and resorts have also gone up, much to the dismay of travellers.

"I wanted to travel for a weekend to enjoy the monsoons and look up properties in both Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru. The prices of all good properties start from almost ₹3,000 per night and go up to ₹25,000 per night. I finally settled for a resort in Chikkamagaluru for ₹5,000 per night. I thought this would be off season as summer vacations ended, but was surprised looking at the prices," said Architha Reddy, a traveller from Bengaluru.

Hotel and resort owners say that they have to impose a marginal increase on the tariffs during weekends as the properties stay vacant through the weekdays.

Demand to continue

The demand for tourist destinations is expected to continue across the State until the beginning of October this year.

"We are expecting monsoon tourism to pick up further in the coming weeks. Moreover, Dasara begins in September itself this year and the government is also willing to celebrate it in a grander manner this year. By September, the demand will peak with even foreign tourists arriving for Dasara," said K. Syama Raju, president, Karnataka Tourism Society.

Prize Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bishop Cotton Girls' School Senior School celebrated the Annual Prize Day on Saturday. The programme was attended by the presence of the officers of the Karnataka Central Diocese, members of the board of management, parents, staff, and students. Principal Lavanya Mithran introduced the Chief Guest, Preetha Reddy Pulusani, CEO and Founder, DeepTarget Inc., Cottonian of the 1975 batch.

Migrants from Bihar living in city in a dilemma over SIR of electoral rolls

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Migrant labourers from Bihar living in Bengaluru are divided over whether to return to their hometowns to fill out the enumeration form issued by the Election Commission as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

In the lead-up to the Bihar elections, expected to be held in November, the Election Commission is undertaking a voter verification drive, the first in 22 years.

Many Bihari migrants working in the city expressed mixed reactions when *The Hindu* spoke to them. Most of them cited time constraints, travel expenses, and a tedious process, even as the Election Commission continues to push the SIR aggressively.

Guddu Kumar, a native of Chhapra in Bihar, explained that workers usually travel home in groups for extended periods after completing their contracted work. However, at the moment, they are unable to go either alone or as a group, because they are in the middle of a project.

"If we leave midway and stay back for a long time, the current manager won't re-hire us when we return. Finding a new job again is a tedious task," said Kumar. His co-workers at the construction site agreed with him. Ashu Raj, who works at a construction site in Ejipura, said that returning home now would be difficult because they would have to travel again for the elections and the upcoming festivals.

During festivals

"Diwali and Chhath Pooja are the two festivals we always look forward to. If we go now, it will be hard to afford another trip soon, especially since many of us just returned in February," Mr. Raj said. He added that some managers withhold part of the workers' salary and release it only when they go home, so many currently lack the savings needed for travel.

A few workers, whose names were already included in the 2003 revision, said their families were able to complete the current process

A contractor, who wished to remain anonymous, confirmed this. "It's not a very common practice, but yes, some managers do withhold wages to ensure workers don't leave a project halfway," he said.

When asked whether they were concerned about missing the chance to vote, some workers said the hassle of going back and forth isn't worth it. They believe and hope the process will be available again when they return home for the festivals.

However, others were more cautious and determined to participate in the process, fearing potential consequences.

"There are talks that the government might stop issuing rations and other essential benefits to those who don't complete the SIR. If that happens, our families back in the village will suffer," said Ramesh, a tile worker near Suddaguntepalya.

A few workers, whose names were already included in the 2003 revision, said their families were able to complete the current process on their behalf by submitting identity documents, so they didn't have to travel back. However, officials did not accept documents in the absence of voters if they were registered after 2003.

Though EC has given the option of online registration, most *The Hindu* spoke to said they were unaware of it. Some said they did not have documents here to complete the process online.

50,000 people visit three-day 'Sasya Santhe'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The three-day 'Sasya Santhe' (plant fair) organised by Regional Horticulture Research and Extension Centre, University of Horticultural Sciences (UHS) on GKVK campus came to an end on Sunday. The fair saw a participation of around 50,000 people.

The fourth edition of the event was inaugurated recently. Speaking at the valedictory ceremony on Sunday, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda urged people to become more conscious of environmental conservation.

100 stalls

There were more than 100 stalls that were set up in the fair selling various kinds of fruit, flower and ornamental saplings along with plantation, medicinal plants and vegetable seeds.

Vishnuvardhana, Vice-Chancellor of UHS Bagalakote delivered the presidential remarks and said, "In the next few days, we will launch a mega nursery on the UHS GKVK campus in Bengaluru where all kinds of quality seedlings, grafted plants, seeds, accessories, biofertlisers etc will be made available under a single roof. We will also provide training on urban horticulture, vertical gardening, terrace gardening, kitchen gardening, mushroom production, etc."

Participants at the valedictory programme of 'Sasya Santhe' and Environment Day celebration at the University of Horticultural Sciences in Bengaluru on Sunday.

MRPL gas leak: Six staff booked

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The city police have registered a case against the factory manager, chief general manager, general manager, and three other staff members of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) by charging them with negligence which led to the death of two MRPL workers, allegedly due to the leakage of hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) gas, while on duty in the Oil Movement Area (OMS) on Saturday morning.

The six staff members against whom the case was booked were in charge of the OMS, according to police. The police said Assistant Operation Officers P. Bijil Prasad, 35, of Kerala and Deep Chandra Bhartiya, 33, of Prayagraj, died after they inhaled H2S gas when they went over a tank in the OMS area to check a minor leakage of the gas on it.

Residents raise alarm over neglected PHC, PWD quarters in Jeevan Bima Nagar

Deeksha M.
BENGALURU

A primary health centre (PHC) and Public Works Department (PWD) quarters at Jeevan Bima Nagar has become a cause for concern among local residents, who claim that the deteriorating condition of the buildings and its surroundings poses both health and safety hazards.

Many of the PWD quarters, constructed in 1976, are now unoccupied, according to PWD officials. What was once a residential structure is now reduced to ruins, with the site being used as a dumping ground, according to residents. Broken furniture, bags of cement, and abandoned vehicles clutter the premises.

"This auto has been parked here for over a year, punctured and forgotten. It's frustrating to see this mess right outside our house," said John Peter, a resident of Jeevan Bima Nagar.

Residents further allege that the building now attracts unethical activities and has turned into a garbage hotspot.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Nagaraju L., Assistant Executive Engineer, Karnataka Public Works Department, confirmed that the building is slated for demolition, but that the proposal is yet to receive government clearance.

Many of the PWD quarters, constructed in 1976, are now unoccupied, according to PWD officials.

"We are trying to fence it off as residents have raised concerns. I have received complaints about garbage dumping here and have requested for it to be cleaned, but no action has been taken yet," Mr. Nagaraju said.

The adjacent PHC is also under scrutiny. Residents say the doctor in charge is rarely present and that they are often denied basic medical attention. "There is only one doctor, and he's almost never here ," said Mary Shushila, another resident.

The PHC shares a boundary with the dilapidated PWD quarters, raising serious concerns over hygiene. Overflowing garbage, stagnant water, and foul odour have led to fears of contamination and infection among patients and locals alike.

According to locals, BBMP sanitation workers collect garbage from nearby areas only to dump it in front of the deserted PWD quarters.

However, when *The Hindu* contacted Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner (Health) and Zonal Commissioner (West), BBMP, he said that he had not received any formal complaints, contradicting repeated claims by residents.

Journalist K.B. Ganapathy passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

K.B. Ganapathy

K.B. Ganapathy, founder-editor of *Star of Mysore* and *Mysuru Mithra* newspapers, passed away at a private nursing home in Mysuru on Sunday morning.

The last rites were held at the crematorium at the foot of the Chamundi Hills.

A native of Kodagu district, Mr. Ganapathy, 85, leaves behind his wife Ralie Ganapathy, sons Vikram Muthanna and Mickey Bopanna, besides his daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

Mr. Ganapathy's body was kept at his residence in K.C. Layout in the city for people to pay their last respects.

MP for Mysuru Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar was among the scores of people who turned up at Mr. Ganapathy's residence and paid their last respects. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah condoled the death of the veteran journalist.

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The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8255905	Design, manufacture, supply at site, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Heavy Duty Reversible Type Passenger Escalator.(Qty: 01 Nos.)

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 31.07.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/278/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
APPLICATION NOTIFICATION
No. 565/ M-UTS Sahayak/SBC/2025
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division, South Western Railway, Bengaluru - 560 023 on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications from **Retired Railway Employees / General Public** of Bangalore Division for Engagement as M-UTS Sahayak at KSR Bengaluru City station over SBC Division for issuing of Unreserved / General Tickets through M-UTS on recharge bonus basis for a period of one year:

Name of the Station	Number of Vacancy
KSR Bengaluru City	07

The application form, eligibility criteria and other details can be downloaded from website www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Date and time of submission of application:
From 10.00 hours to 15:00 hours of 04.08.2025
Date and time of opening of application:
15:05 hours of 04.08.2025
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Bengaluru Division
PUB/285/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public are hereby informed that my client **Sri. Naresh Kumar** intends to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its respective owners **(A) Smt. Subadramma wife of Late R. Muddaveerappa** bearing Site No. 16 & 17, and **(B) Smt. S. Meena wife of Sri. M. Suresh** is the owner of site bearing No. 18, situated at **3rd Cross, Santhivana, Kodigehalli, Bangalore,** the said properties were purchased under a Registered Sale Deed dated 08-04-1993, from their vendor **Mr. K. Madhu Gowda son of Late Kariyappa**. The current owners are in actual, physical, and peaceful possession of the Schedule Property. They have entered into an Agreement of Sale dated 14-04-2022 in favour of **Sri Manjunath R and Sri A. Thirumurugan.** The said agreement holders have now approached my client with a proposal to sell the Schedule Property.
Any person(s) having or claiming any right, title, interest, or objection to the proposed sale transaction is hereby called upon to submit their written objections, along with relevant documentary evidence, to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN (15) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that there are no claims, and my client will proceed to complete the proposed Sale Transaction with respect to the schedule properties.
SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
ITEM No. I
All that piece and parcel of the vacant Site bearing **No. 16 & 17,** BBMP E-Khatha No: 2015196797, 3rd Cross, Shanthivana, Kodigehalli, Bangalore- 560 092, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring an extent of 2400 sq ft, formed out of land in Survey No.17, situated at **Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** bounded on:-
East by : Property No:15,
West by : Private No:18 of S.Meena
North by : Property of K Narayana,
South by : Road.
ITEM No. II
All that piece and parcel of the vacant Site bearing **No. 18,** BBMP E-Khatha No: 5577859683, **3rd Cross, Shanthivana, Kodigehalli, Bangalore- 560 092**, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring an extent of 1200 sqft, formed out of land in Survey No.17, situated at **Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** bounded on:-
East by : Property No:17,
West by : Private No:19,
North by : Property of K Narayana Swamy,
South by : Public Road.
G.R. RAJANNA
RANJITH GOTUR
Advocates
No.461, SAMPIGE ROAD, 6th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAKSHA, R/o No. 201 B block, Sashank Florento, near Ambabhavani Temple, Doddabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura post, Bangalore–560097 have changed my name to Raksha Singh vide affidavit dt 08.07.2025 sworn before Notary D. Sarala kumari, Bangalore

I, P Jeevananth, son of Palaniyandi R/O 1/25 Kudi Street Veesanam Namakkal Tamil Nadu have changed my minor son's name from Milan to Milan Jeevananth. Both names refer to the same person. He will henceforth be known as Milan Jeevananth for all purposes.

I, NIYATI Chamyal, W/o Samarath Gupta, R/at Flat No.F-202, ITC Garden Enclave, Jakkur, Jakkur Plantation Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560064, have changed my name from Niyati Laxmansingh Chamyal to Niyati Chamyal vide affidavit dated 11/07/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
MADRAS RACE CLUB
CIN : U74999TN1922NPL001455
Regd. Office : Race Course Road
Guindy, Chennai – 600032.
Website : www.madrasraceclub.com
Tel. No. 91-44 22351171/2/3/5 & 22350774
Email Id : secretary@madrasraceclub.com
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024-25
Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting ('AGM')** of the **MADRAS RACE CLUB** ('The Club') for the year 2024-2025 is scheduled to be held on **Friday, 8th August 2025 at 4.30 p.m. (IST) at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")** to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of the AGM.
Instructions for Members intending to attend the AGM at the Venue and vote at the venue or join the Annual General Meeting electronically and vote electronically are detailed in the Notice of the AGM.
Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2024-2025 has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Club and hard copy has been posted to those who do not have or who have not furnished the email id. The same will also be available on the Club's website at **www.madrasraceclub.com** and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), **www.evoting.nsdl.com** the service providers for assisting such members who wish to participate in the meeting electronically.
Club Members are requested to register / update their email address by writing to the Club with details of their membership number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN Card as identity proof and self-attested copy of any document (viz. Driving Licence, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the member at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** or to **evoting@nsdl.com**
The Club has engaged the services of NSDL as the authorised agency for assisting Members in participating in the AGM electronically and for providing e-voting facility. Members can cast their vote online from **10.00 A.M. (IST) on Tuesday, 5th August 2025, till 5.00 P.M. (IST) on Thursday, 7th August 2025.** At the end of remote e-voting period, the facility shall be disabled. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.
Only those members, whose names are recorded in the Register of Members as on the 'cut-of-date' ie. **Monday, 7th July, 2025** only shall be entitled to vote.
In terms of Articles of Association of the Club, no Club Member shall be entitled to vote at or take part in any meeting of the Club until all moneys due to the Club by him have been paid. Hence, Club Members are requested to settle all their dues on or before **5.00 P.M. on Thursday, 31st July, 2025** in order to cast their vote.
Queries / grievances, if any, with regard to e-voting, may be addressed to the Secretary, Madras Race Club, through e-mail at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** OR may please visit Help and FAQs section available at **www.evoting.nsdl.com** or contact No. **022 4886 7000.**
By Order of the Committee of Management of MADRAS RACE CLUB
S.NIRMAL PRASAD
Secretary
Place : Chennai
Date : 07.07.2025

Climate change is deciding where and how rural Indians are living

Climate migration, which is the movement of people forced to leave their homes due to climate-related disasters, has led to widespread and often involuntary migration to urban areas and other regions, eroding social structures and worsening living and working conditions for migrants

Sayantan Datta

A woman draws water from a well at Mahoba in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Two features mark the geography of Bundelkhand, the region in Central India spread over 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh: the steep hills of the Vindhyas and progressively scanty rainfall and increasingly frequent droughts.

Consider Panna district in Madhya Pradesh. According to data from the India Meteorological Department, Panna has been receiving progressively less rainfall even as temperatures have been rising. According to one estimate, the average temperature in Bundelkhand is expected to rise by 2-3.5° C by 2100.

The region has thus become a hotbed of droughts. Datia in Madhya Pradesh, for instance, faced nine droughts between 1998 and 2009. In the same period, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts in Uttar Pradesh suffered eight.

The region's farmers have been the worst affected. As their crops have failed more often, they have struggled to make ends meet and slipped deeper into debt. Agricultural workers have taken up other jobs, such as working in the region's diamond mines. When that too hasn't sufficed, the men have left their families behind and migrated, Surendra Singh Jatav, assistant professor of economics at the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow, said. Their destinations are "Surat, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai."

Jatav has studied the impact of climate change on farmers' lives in Bundelkhand since 2012. The most significant change, he said, is in the social fabric of Bundelkhand's villages.

Climate migration

A little more than 1,500 km away from Bundelkhand is Charpauli village in Bangladesh. Located along the banks of the Jamuna river, Charpauli has a starkly different problem. Every year during the monsoons, the Jamuna swells and devours the land on its banks. Large chunks of the land break off and are washed away, taking the homes of people with them.

According to some media reports in Bangladesh, in one week in May 2022, riverbank erosion in Jamuna destroyed around 500 houses in Charpauli, leaving thousands homeless. In a 2023 study, researchers at the Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology used satellite images to find that between 1990 and 2020, the river's left bank had dwindled by roughly 12 m every year and the right bank by about 52 m every year.

Scientists have suggested that climate change leads to a greater volume of water flowing through a particular river channel at a particular time, in turn increasing the risk of flooding and erosion.

The parched lands of Bundelkhand and the flooded banks of the Jamuna share one similarity. As their houses are consumed by the ever-swelling river, people first try to move away from the bank, at times building fresh houses on arable land. Then, when it is no longer possible to survive in the village, according to ETH Zürich researcher Jan Freihardt, entire households migrate to nearby cities like Dhaka as a last resort.

Freihardt, a postdoctoral researcher, has studied climate migration in Charpauli and other villages.

Climate migration refers to the movement of people resulting from climate change-related disasters, which may be sudden (floods, cyclones, etc.) or gradual (increasing temperature, sea-level rise, etc.). According to a 2022 report by the International Refugee Assistance Project, climate and weather-related incidents force about 20 million people to migrate every year to other areas in their own countries. This is called internal migration.

While migration away from the Jamuna's banks is permanent, climate change can also exacerbate seasonal migration in many areas. One such case is that of migration from Vidarbha and Marathwada, two infamously drought-prone regions of Maharashtra.

Sugar cane and bitter endings

The Vidarbha and Marathwada regions lie in the rain shadow of the Western Ghats.

A rain shadow forms when a region is located on the side of mountains facing away from the sea. As water evaporates from the sea, the warm, moist air rises up. When it reaches the top of the mountains, it condenses to form clouds, which eventually rain down on the side facing the sea. By the time the air crosses over the mountains to the other side, almost all the moisture has been exhausted, thus the side facing away from the sea receives little to no rainfall, aridifying over time. This has happened with Vidarbha and Marathwada.

Climate change is worsening this situation. Both regions have been recording erratic rainfall of late.

"The number of rainy days are coming down and rain on a particular day is increasing. But the gap between two rainy days is long," Ramanjaneyulu G.V., executive director of the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, said in September 2024. Satellite data has also revealed that temperatures in the two regions already surpass the 50° C mark in May.

Those who live here pack their belongings on bullock carts and travel for hundreds of kilometres to sugar cane plantations in Western Maharashtra and Karnataka. There, they stay for four to six months, working as "cane cutters" in these fields, Ankita Bhatkhande, head of communications at a social-impact consultancy named Asar, said.

Bhatkhande has been involved in research projects that study the extent and impact of droughts in Maharashtra.

India is the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar cane. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution reported that in 2021, the country produced 50 crore tonnes of sugar cane, generating a revenue of more than ₹20,000 crore.

This flattering number does not reflect the reality of the migrant labourers who harvest the country's sugar cane fields.

According to Bhatkhande, cane cutters are hired typically as a couple: the husband cuts the sugar cane and the wife stacks them. Together, the couple is called a *koita* – a Marathi word for the sickle used to cut the sugar cane. These

> Migration may be the most effective way to allow people to diversify income and build resilience where environmental change threatens livelihoods

labourers are hired by a contractor known as the *mukaddam*, who pays the couple an advance: a sum that can range anywhere between Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh depending on the couple's financial requirements, the size of the sugar cane plantations, and the quantity of sugar cane expected to be harvested that year.

"The precarity and conditions of this migration and the wages that they get have worsened year on year," Bhatkhande added.

Because they are paid an advance, the labourers are required to work until they have cut enough sugar cane to match the payment. For example, if a couple has been paid ₹ 50,000 at the rate of ₹ 367 per tonne of sugar cane harvested, they must cut 136 tonnes of sugar cane in the harvesting season. However, erratic rainfall and dry spells have brought down the production of sugar cane, which is a water-intensive crop. This means the labourers have to return the next season with no extra payment to make up for the deficit, creating a cycle of debt bondage.

The worsening precarity also reflects on who is migrating: "Earlier, people in their 30s and 20s were the ones who were migrating. Now, people who are nearing their 70s and 80s are also migrating for work," Bhatkhande said.

The younger people cut the sugar cane and load stacks of it onto tractors while the elders are hired to remove weeds from the farm and sort and stack the cane before it is loaded.

When the migrants reach the sugar cane fields, they are given "an extremely dirty and shabby patch of land where they can set up their homes," she added. These, according to her, typically take the shape of plastic sheet tents with no electricity, toilets, or water.

Farmers load harvested sugar cane to be transported to a sugar mill, at a village in Karad. PTI

Adaptation v. displacement

The conditions are no better for migrants from Bundelkhand. Jatav, the BBAU economist, said that in the metropolitan cities to which they migrate, they work as daily-wage construction workers, security guards, and at *dhabas* (roadside restaurants). Only those who are highly skilled get jobs that pay them enough money to rent a room. Others accommodate themselves in slums, where poor sanitation leads to a deterioration of their health, Jatav added.

Back home, the struggle is different. As the migrant's family waits for its remittances to arrive – which can take around six months after a person has migrated and set up shop in the city, per Jatav's estimate – they struggle to make ends meet. The worst hit are the women and the children. With the women left to manage "everything on their own," they are unable to effectively monitor even whether their children are going to school, according to Jatav. He added that women also become increasingly vulnerable to sexual assault.

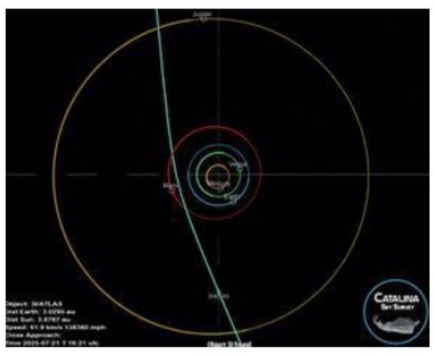
For the migrants from Charpauli and other villages on the banks of Jamuna, what they do after migration depends on where they migrate to. Some villagers migrate to other villages, Freihardt said. There, they insert themselves into jobs that are reminiscent of their life in their previous homes, which now lie underwater: "agricultural work for other people's lands". Those who migrate to cities take up more informal jobs, such as rickshaw pulling, construction work, and daily-wage work in brick kilns.

In a 2011 commentary in *Nature*, researchers from the University of Sussex and the UK government, argued that migration "may be the most effective way to allow people to diversify income and build resilience where environmental change threatens livelihoods." That is, they suggested, migration could be a form of adaptation against climate change-induced loss of livelihoods.

Jatav disagreed, however: at least in the context of Bundelkhand, he explained, migration is a form of "forced displacement" that lowers the "social security of the migrants and their family."

"Migration is not an adaptation. It is a crisis."

(Sayantan Datta is an independent journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. They tweet @queersprings. The author thanks Annu Jalais, Chirag Dhara, and Jaideep Hardikar for their inputs. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)



A snapshot of the orbit of 3I/ATLAS (light blue) through the solar system. The concentric rings at the centre depict the orbits of the solar system's inner planets. The orange ring is Jupiter's orbit. CSS, D. RANKIN (CC BY-SA)

Possibly oldest known comet streaks through solar system

The Hindu Bureau

On July 1, scientists using the ATLAS survey telescope in Chile reported they had discovered an object in space they called 3I/ATLAS, after tracking it since June 14. They quickly recognised the object was interstellar: its highly elliptical orbit around the sun and how quickly it was moving through space, at about 57-68 km/s relative to the sun, were clear giveaways. In fact, its path was found to trace back to the direction of the constellation Sagittarius.

NASA has already said 3I/ATLAS won't pose any threat to the earth. Its closest approach to our planet will be about 270 million km. Its closest approach to the sun itself will be on October 29-30, 2025, at about 210 million km, just inside Mars's orbit. After it swings past the sun in its hyperbolic orbit, it will exit the solar system never to return.

Early observations have confirmed that 3I/ATLAS is an active comet, exhibiting a visible coma – the cloud of ice particles and dust that enshroud the nucleus as it nears a star – and likely developing a tail as it approaches the sun. Photometric measurements have revealed it has a reddish hue. Its spectral slope of about 1.3% per 100 nm suggested its surface is rich in complex organic compounds or water ice.

NASA has said 3I/ATLAS won't pose any threat to earth. Its closest approach will be about 270 million km. After it swings past the sun in its hyperbolic orbit, it will exit the solar system, never to return

The size of the nucleus of 3I/ATLAS itself is still uncertain thanks to the dust surrounding it. Current estimates nonetheless suggest it's about 10-30 km wide, which would make it larger than either of its interstellar predecessors, 1I/Oumuamua in 2017 and 2I/Borisov in 2019. Its composition and rotation period are under active investigation by multiple international teams using ground-based telescopes.

Indeed 3I/ATLAS is likely to be the oldest comet scientists have ever observed, possibly predating the solar system itself by more than 3 billion years. Computer simulations that physicists have run have indicated that it may have originated in the thin disk of the Milky Way, or even from an older, thick-disk star.

This means studying 3I/ATLAS could reveal unique details from the Milky Way's galactic history.

Its rich water ice content and ancient origin also offer a rare chance to study primordial material from another star system, providing insights into the building blocks of planets and the processes of star formation across the galaxy.

A global campaign is currently underway to monitor 3I/ATLAS as it passes through the inner solar system. Astronomers at observatories are collecting data on its composition, activity, and trajectory, with the aim of learning as much as possible before it fades from view.

The comet should be visible to amateur astronomers with modest telescopes in late 2025 and early 2026.

In sum, the discovery of 3I/ATLAS has opened a new window into the study of interstellar objects, offering a wealth of data for planetary scientists and astronomers eager to learn about the distant origins of such cosmic wanderers.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

From Page One

Between March and June every year, electricity consumption peaks in the State as summer sets in, and both domestic and agricultural demand goes up.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Ample rain reduces power consumption

Mr. Gupta also said that the electricity demand and consumption has gone down in neighbouring States as well due to monsoon activity resulting in lower exchange rates for power in the markets.

"Monsoon activities also lead to increased wind generation even though it dampens solar generation a little. Gradually, when the rates go up, we will sell more in the market to compensate for the lower rates. Overall, we have been able to handle the demand for this season well," he said.

'Users of polluting cooking fuel may be at a higher risk'

"This study noted significantly poorer performance in global and domain-specific cognitive functions among polluting cooking technology users. Moreover, polluting cooking technology use was significantly associated with lower hippocampus volumes in females, the region which is primarily implicated in Alzheimer's disease (AD) pathology," the CBR team said.

"When solid fuels are burned indoors for cooking, especially in poorly ventilated spaces, air pollutants like oxides of carbon, nitrogen, sulphur, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and suspended particulate matter are released. These pollutants have been implicated in adversely affecting brain health via different mechanisms. The primary mechanisms may be related to inflammation and oxidative stress, wherein ultrafine air pollutants affect the brain directly by entering the brain through the olfactory bulb or by crossing the blood-brain barrier (BBB)," the study noted.

Modifiable risk factor

While a large body of evidence exists documenting the effects of air pollution on cardiovascular and pulmonary health, its impact on cognition and brain health is only recently being explored.

Besides the well-recognised risk factors for cognitive impairment, such as age, genetic predisposition, and cardiovascular diseases, increasing evidence suggests that air pollution is a modifiable risk factor.

"Our study echoes the findings from a harmonised analysis of ageing studies across India, China and Mexico that revealed poorer cognitive function among polluting cooking fuel users. It is among the first few studies to produce findings specific to a rural Indian setting. Recent findings from cross-sectional data of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) showed that HAP was negatively associated with cognitive functioning among rural residents, particularly in older rural women. Another study among rural adults in South India found a higher prevalence of cognitive impairment among polluting cooking fuel users," the study added.

BMRCL to upgrade depots to support expanding metro network in city

This comes as the Purple and Green lines are set to receive 21 new trains in the coming months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In preparation for Bengaluru's expanding Namma Metro network, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is upgrading its existing train depots to accommodate additional rakes, especially for the Purple and Green lines, which are set to receive 21 new trains in the coming months.

Currently, the metro train operations are supported by depots located at Peenya (for the Green Line), Kadugodi-Whitefield (for the Purple Line), and Baiyappanahalli. A new depot has also been constructed at Hebbagodi to serve the upcoming Yellow Line between R.V. Road and Bommasandra.

A new depot has also been constructed at Hebbagodi to serve the upcoming Yellow Line between R.V. Road and Bommasandra.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Series of enhancements

According to BMRCL officials, the Peenya depot is undergoing a series of upgrades to support the additional train sets. These enhancements include the construction of extra platforms, a jack pit for three-car coaches, and other essential infrastructure. "The total cost for these works is estimated at ₹1.94 crore. These improvements are vital for the efficient stabling and maintenance of trains, thereby ensuring smooth operations across the metro network," an official said.

At Baiyappanahalli

Meanwhile, major redevelopment work has already been completed at the Baiyappanahalli depot, at a cost of ₹249.19 crore. This upgraded facility will be the first in the BMRCL system to feature a two-level structure.

The redesigned depot is strategically positioned to support 16 trains operating on the Outer Ring Road stretch (Phase 2A) and 21 trains on the Airport Line (Phase 2B), which run in opposite directions. Baiyappanahalli sits in the middle of both corridors and is expected to play a key role in managing operations until the new Shettigere depot near the airport becomes operational.

"Presently, the Baiyappanahalli depot services the 43.49-km-long Purple Line connecting Challaghatta to Whitefield. However, once the remodelling is complete, the responsibility for Purple Line maintenance will be divided between the Kadugodi and Challaghatta depots, as the upgraded Baiyappanahalli depot begins handling Airport Line operations," the official added.

Five new depots

In addition to these developments, five new depots are under construction to support the expanding metro network.

These include Shettigere (Airport Line), Kothanur (Pink Line from Nagawara to Kalena Agrahara), Anjanapura (Green Line extension), Challaghatta (Purple Line extension), and Hebbagodi (Yellow Line).

Trust steps back from Puttenahalli lake maintenance after BBMP issues notice

The Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust signed an MoU with the BBMP in 2011 to maintain the lake with the support from local residents.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After 15 years of maintaining Puttenahalli lake, also known as Puttakere, in South Bengaluru, the Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust (PNLIT) has stepped back from nurturing the lake following a notice from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The PNLIT played a key role in rejuvenating the 13-acre and 25-gunta lake in 2010. In 2011, the trust signed an MoU with the BBMP to maintain the lake with the support from local residents.

From its neglected state in 2008, the lake flourished after restoration and began attracting numerous migratory and native birds. According to eBird data, 125 bird species have been recorded at the lake. The lake is also home to 88 different tree species, totalling over 500 trees. As per the BBMP records, the civic body took over the lake's maintenance from the Forest Department in 2008.

Usha Rajagopalan, co-founder of the PNLIT, told *The Hindu* that BBMP lacked a post-rejuvenation plan, prompting her and local residents to establish PNLIT. "We signed an MoU with BBMP for lake maintenance from 2011 to 2014, and it was then renewed twice, in 2014 and 2017, lasting until 2020," said Ms. Rajagopalan.

However, in 2020, the BBMP did not renew the MoU after the Karnataka High Court ruled that the government could not enter into such agreements (related to lakes) with corporate entities. The order, however, did not prohibit the government from accepting corporate funds for lake rejuvenation.

Ms. Rajagopalan mentioned that the PNLIT filed an interlocutory application in response to the court's order, and the hearing is still ongoing.

Even prior to this development, the PNLIT had hired workers and had been maintaining the lake for over a decade. "Since we had filed an interlocutory application, we continued nurturing the lake and carried out timely pruning and other maintenance activities," she said.

However, in a notice dated June 10, the civic body directed the PNLIT to remove all boards from the trees and to cease unauthorised work, in this case, pruning and other maintenance tasks. "We can't fight anymore; we have been fighting for more than a decade," a devastated Ms. Rajagopalan told *The Hindu*.

A BBMP official from the lake division described the PNLIT's collection of funds for lake maintenance as "illegal," which led to the issuance of the notice. "The High Court has barred us from such MoUs, and if this group is collecting money for lake maintenance, then isn't it illegal?" the official asked.

No 'biryani' in the tender document: BBMP clarifies on street dog menu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The total estimated cost of the project is ₹2.88 crore annually

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Sunday stated that the street dog feeding programme is a continuation of the initiative launched during the COVID-19 pandemic and is now being expanded in line with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

The civic body said that it has invited tenders for the supply of balanced meals to be served at designated feeding points across each zone, identified and monitored by the respective Assistant Directors.

The initiative is aimed at improving public health by curbing the spread of zoonotic diseases from dogs, addressing dog bite issues, and aiding the city's ongoing efforts in sterilisation and vaccination of street dogs, according to the BBMP. Feeding makes it easier to catch the feral dogs, said the civic body.

Of the estimated 2.7 lakh street dogs in Bengaluru, only around 4,000 of the most food-insecure are being targeted under this initiative.

Feeding will take place at 100 points per zone, covering 500 dogs per zone, once a day, throughout the year, said the BBMP.

The total estimated cost of the project is ₹2.88 crore annually, with a per-dog daily cost of ₹19 (excluding taxes).

This includes ₹8 for logistics and ₹11 for food. Meals will consist of boiled chicken, rice, and vegetables, based on veterinary advice.

Officials clarified that the term "biryani" does not appear anywhere in the tender document. "As dogs are carnivorous, the meals will be nutritionally balanced, consisting of boiled chicken (for protein), rice, and vegetables. This combination is designed to be suitable and easily digestible for street dogs," the BBMP said.

The clarification came amidst criticism from certain sections, including the opposition BJP, flaying the civic body for offering "chicken biryani" to dogs.

Approximately 70% of BBMP wards have achieved sterilisation targets, but feeding is being strategically focused in areas where dog-catching remains difficult or bite incidents persist, according to BBMP.

Leopard captured

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Forest Department on Saturday captured a female leopard that had created a sense of fear among the residents of Sigaranahalli and neighbouring villages in Holenarsipur taluk of Hassan district.

The wild animal was about three years old.

It had carried away a few head of cattle and stray dogs from the villages in the recent days.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
CIN: L65110TN1921PLC001908
Registered office: 57, V. E. Road, Thoothukudi – 628 002.
Phone: 0461-2321932, 2321929 (E)
Website: www.tmb.in | Email: shareholders@tmbank.in

NOTICE OF THE 103rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that the 103rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, will be held on Friday, August 08, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. IST through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual means ("OAVM") without the physical presence of the members, at a common venue, in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder, read with MCA circulars (vide General Circular No.09/2024 dated 19.09.2024 read with General Circular No.14/2020 dated 08.04.2020, No.17/2020 dated 13.04.2020, No.22/2020 dated 15.06.2020, No.02/2022 dated 05.05.2022, No.10/2022 dated 28.12.2022 & No.09/2023 dated 25.09.2023), SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and SEBI vide its Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2024/133 dated 03.10.2024 to transact the businesses as set forth in the Notice of the AGM.

In compliance with aforesaid MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular, electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM, along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2024-25, will be sent to those shareholders whose e-mail address(es) are registered with the Registrar & Transfer Agent (RTA) / Depository Participant(s).

As per Regulation 36(1)(b) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a letter containing the web link, including the exact path and complete details of the Annual Report, will be sent to the shareholders who have not registered their email address(es) with the Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA) or Depository Participant(s). Shareholders who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to update the same.

Further, the Notice and the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2024-25 will also be made available on the website of the Bank www.tmb.in under 'Investor's Relations' section, on the website of National Securities Depository Limited ('NSDL') at www.evoting.nsdl.com and on the website of Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com in due course.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act") and the rules made thereunder and in compliance with the Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI LODR"), the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Bank will remain closed from Saturday, August 02, 2025 to Friday, August 08, 2025 (both days inclusive).

Shareholders will be able to attend and participate in the AGM only through VC / OAVM. The details for joining the AGM through VC / OAVM will be provided in the Notice of the AGM to be sent to Shareholders.

In accordance with the applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Bank is providing to its Members facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at the AGM, by electronic means ("e-Voting"). The Bank has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") as the agency to provide e-Voting facility.

The remote e-Voting schedule is as under:

Commencement of e-Voting	**Tuesday, August 05, 2025 at 9.00 A.M. IST**
End of e-Voting	**Thursday, August 07, 2025 at 5.00 P.M. IST**
Cut-Off date for determining the eligibility for voting	**Friday, August 01, 2025**

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-Voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on: 022 - 4886 7000 or send a request to Ms.Prajakta Pwale at evoting@nsdl.com

The Board of Directors in their meeting held on April 23, 2025, recommended a Final Dividend of ₹11/- per equity share of the face value ₹10/- each, for the Financial Year 2024-25, subject to the approval of the Shareholders at the ensuing AGM of the Bank. The Record Date for determining the eligibility for entitlement of dividend for the Financial Year 2024-25 is **Friday, August 01, 2025.**

Pursuant to Finance Act 2020, dividend income is taxable in the hands of shareholders w.e.f. April 01, 2020 and the Bank is required to deduct tax at source (TDS) from the dividend paid to shareholders at the prescribed rates. The rate of TDS would vary depending on the residential status of the shareholder and documents registered with the Bank.

Shareholders who are not liable to pay Income Tax, can submit the Forms 15G/15H online in the website of our Registrar & Share Transfer Agent by accessing the following web link https://web.in.mpms.mufg.com/formsreg/submission-of-form-15g-15h.html, not later than **July 31, 2025.**

Members may note that as per extant guidelines of SEBI, it is mandatory for shareholders holding securities in physical form in listed entities, to furnish PAN, Bank account details, Specimen Signature, Contact Details and Address. With effect from 01.04.2024, SEBI has mandated that all dividends shall be paid only after submission of all the above mentioned particulars. Henceforth, the Bank's RTA i.e. MUFG Intime India Private Limited (formerly Link Intime India Private Limited), will attend to all service requests of the shareholders with respect to transmission, dividend, etc., only after updating the above details in their records.

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited
Sd/-
Swapnil Ashok Yelgaonkar
Company Secretary
(Membership No: ACS 21877)

Date: 13.07.2025
Place: Thoothukudi

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 14
RISE 06:01 SET 18:50
RISE 21:42 SET 08:57

TUESDAY, JUL. 15
RISE 06:01 SET 18:50
RISE 22:22 SET 09:50

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 16
RISE 06:01 SET 18:50
RISE 23:02 SET 10:43

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Delivery executive beaten for not making way at signal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basaveshwaranagar police have registered a case of assault against three people who allegedly assaulted a 35-year-old delivery executive for not making way at the traffic signal on Saturday night.

It was around 11.50 p.m. when the victim, Prema Ram, was returning home after work . He stopped his scooter at the Modi hospital signal at Rajajinagar.

"Though it was late night, I followed rules and waited for the signal to avoid any fine," Mr. Prema Ram told *The Hindu*.

The traffic was light with only an autorickshaw and car waiting on either side of his scooter.

The accused came from behind riding triple on a scooter and started honking and asking him to move, he said. Prema Rama told them to wait since it was just a one minute signal.

Enraged by this, the trio allegedly got down and assaulted him, while others looked on. "The three were drunk and hurled abuses at me while punching my face constantly," Mr. Prema Ram said.

The accused fled when a few passers by shouted "police police," leaving Prema Ram with a bleeding face.

Complained filed

The Hoysala patrolling vehicle reached a few minutes later and took him to K.C. General Hospital Prema Ram after recovering from his wounds approached the Basaveshwara Nagar police and filed a complaint. The police are trying to track down the accused based on the CCTV camera footage. "I followed traffic rules and got beaten up for no fault of mine," the victim said.

Techie tries to sell sofa online, loses ₹9.6 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East Division police on Saturday registered an FIR against a man who, posing as a customer, offered to buy a sofa which was up for sale online from a 32-year-old software engineer and made away with ₹9.6 lakh.

Based on the complaint by a resident of HAL 2nd Stage, the police charged the accused under IT Act and also under section 318 (4) (through cheating, dishonestly induces another person to deliver property or create/alter/destroy a valuable security or anything convertible into one) of BNS for further investigation.

The complainant told the police that she had posted an ad on an online marketing site to sell a two-seater sofa for ₹12,000 on July 7.

A few hours later a person who identified himself as Mukesh contacted her that he is interested in buying sofa.

After enquiring about the price and negotiating a little, they sealed the deal.

Later, he called her and said that he will make an advance token amount and the victim shared her mobile number which was linked to her bank account.

He then allegedly convinced her to transfer ₹12,000 multiple times claiming that it will be credited to her account, and the final amount debited crossed ₹9 lakh. When she checked with the bank, she learnt that the money had been transferred to four different accounts outside the State.

The police suspected that the money was sent to mule accounts which have been withdrawn and diverted to other accounts to withdraw.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Worth of sanction letters given to 3,000 women by India Bank

1,011 in ₹ crore. "Such initiatives not only reduce the dependence on sources of informal credit but also help inclusion into the formal financial ecosystem," Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, Secretary M. Nagaraju observed. PTI

India's Russian oil imports hit 11-month high in June

2.08 in million barrels. India's crude oil imports in June were the highest since July 2024, according to Kpler. "More than half of these imports from Russia were made by three refineries in India, which also export refined products to G7+ countries." PTI

Palestinians killed by Israeli airstrikes while seeking aid

59 There were no signs of a breakthrough in ceasefire talks following two days of meetings between U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Trump had said he was nearing an agreement between Israel and Hamas that would wind down the war. AP

Number of people arrested in Nigeria for financing terrorism

44 Nigeria slapped 44 Boko Haram jihadists with jail terms of up to 30 years, a spokesman for a counterterrorism agency said. Nigeria is listed as a "grey list country" by international monitors due to deficiencies in preventing money laundering and terrorism financing. AFP

Growth in refunds issued to taxpayers from 2014 to 2025

474 In per cent. India's tax administration has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past decade, with taxpayer refunds growing at nearly double the pace of tax collections, Ministry of Finance sources said. ANI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Who are qualified as 'ordinarily resident'?

What does Section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 state? Why are migrant workers vulnerable when it comes to classifying themselves as ordinarily resident in a particular constituency? Are NRIs allowed to vote? What does the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 govern?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The Election Commission of India (EC) has initiated a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar. This has kindled the debate around the term 'ordinarily resident' for the purpose of being included in the electoral rolls of a constituency.

Who is 'ordinarily resident'?

The electoral rolls are prepared by the EC as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act). Section 19 of the RP Act requires that a person is 'ordinarily resident' in a constituency for inclusion in its electoral roll.

Section 20 provides the meaning of the term 'ordinarily resident'. It specifies that a person shall not be deemed to be 'ordinarily resident' in a constituency only because he/she owns or possesses a dwelling house therein. However, a person temporarily absent from his/her place of residence shall continue to be 'ordinarily resident' therein. Persons who are (a) members of armed forces of the Union, (b) armed police force of a State serving outside that State, (c) employed by the Government of India in a post outside India or (d) holding a constitutional office declared by the President in consultation with the EC are considered, along with their spouse, to be 'ordinarily resident' in the constituency where they would have been 'ordinarily resident' but for such posting. Section 20A was added in 2010 to enable non-resident Indians who have shifted out of India, even for long term, to register and vote in the constituency in which their address as per passport is located.

The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (RER), notified by the Central government in consultation with the EC, governs the preparation of, and inclusion/exclusion of names in the electoral rolls as per the provisions of the RP Act.

On a roll: An advertisement van for the SIR in Purnia, Bihar on July 9. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

What are potential issues?

The requirement of being 'ordinarily resident' for inclusion in the electoral roll of a constituency is to ensure that the voter maintains real ties with the constituency that preserves representative accountability. It is also aimed at preventing fraudulent registrations.

The Gauhati High Court in the *Manmohan Singh* case (1999), indicated that the term 'ordinarily resident' shall mean a habitual resident of that place. It must be permanent in character and not temporary or casual. It must be a place where the person has the intention to dwell permanently. A reasonable man must accept him/her as a resident of that place.

The issue arises when it comes to migrant labourers. The Periodic Labour Force Survey of 2020-21 estimated that around 11% of our population migrated due to employment related reasons. This translates to close to 15 crore voters being migrant labourers within or outside their States. Some of these migrations are seasonal in nature where the labourers return to their ordinary residence for some months of a year. Many migrant construction and security workers live in temporary shacks/residences at their place of work. They move from one location to another, within a State or even in different States, as part of their work. They return to the ordinary residence in their home State at regular intervals. They exercise their right to vote in that place where their families and children live and where their properties exist. While they may not be residing permanently in such residence, the philosophy behind being 'ordinarily resident' as opined by the courts is broadly fulfilled with respect to that residence for such migrant workers.

Any migrant has the right to shift his/her vote to their new place of residence anywhere in India if they so desire. However, removal of migrant voters from the electoral roll of their original residence by following a strict interpretation of the term 'ordinarily resident' can vitiate the democratic process. It may result in their disenfranchisement as most of them would not be keen, and neither welcome, to register as voters in their temporary place of work.

What can be the way forward?

The RP Act provides the option to service voters, persons holding a declared office and NRIs to retain the vote in their constituency even though they may not be permanently residing in such place. While it may not be an apple-to-apple comparison, it must be noted that most labourers, short-term or long-term, migrate on account of lack of opportunities in their region. They continue to have close connections with their original residence and choose to retain their right to vote in such constituency. The RP Act or the RER may be suitably amended to preserve the choice of migrant labourers. Suitable mechanisms, acceptable to all stakeholders, to enable participation of migrant labourers in the elections should be explored. The issue of migrants enrolling more than once in different constituencies should be addressed separately through Aadhaar seeding.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- Section 19 of the RP Act requires that a person is 'ordinarily resident' in a constituency for inclusion in its electoral roll.
- The Gauhati High Court in the *Manmohan Singh* case (1999), indicated that the term 'ordinarily resident' shall mean a habitual resident of that place. It must be permanent in character and not temporary or casual. It must be a place where the person has the intention to dwell permanently.
- The RP Act provides the option to service voters, persons holding a declared office and NRIs to retain the vote in their constituency even though they may not be permanently residing in such place.

Why must India recognise its open ecosystems?

Why are lands classified as 'wastelands' important? Are pastoral communities dependent on them?

Abi Tamim Vanak
Anuja Malhotra

The story so far:

Deserts are often imagined as failures of nature, and barren wastelands in need of redemption. This worldview fuels grand ambitions to "green" the desert, through afforestation, irrigation schemes, or even climate engineering. This gives way to the idea that deserts are broken ecosystems. So pervasive is this vilification, that land degradation is also known as "desertification", and June 17 every year is celebrated as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

Are deserts important?

In truth, deserts are ancient, diverse, and resilient biomes, finely tuned to extremes. They occupy nearly one-third of the Earth's terrestrial surface, and are home to uniquely adapted plants, animals, and human cultures. It is ironic that humans disregard deserts, when several early civilisations were set in desert climates, whether in early Mesopotamia, Egypt, or the Indus valley. Indeed, some historians argue that it is these very harsh desert conditions that prompted humans to develop complex societies and technologies that could invent ingenious ways of irrigation to survive in otherwise inhospitable conditions.

What about other open spaces?

India's relationship with open spaces is full of contradictions. On the one hand, we fetishise them. Real estate ads routinely promise sweeping lawns with names like Savana or Utopia. But when it comes to the country's own vast open natural ecosystems such as grasslands, savannas, scrublands and open woodlands, we have done the opposite. These landscapes have been systematically ignored in policy or worse, actively erased. On official maps, millions of hectares of these ecosystems are classified as wastelands, a term inherited from colonial land-use categories. In policy terms, a wasteland is land waiting to be fixed, often by planting trees, converting it for agriculture or paving it over for industry. What should be protected and stewarded has instead become a target for transformation. India's deserts, grasslands and savannas are home to species found nowhere else: the Great Indian Bustard, the caracal, the Indian wolf etc. These ecosystems also store carbon, not in big trees above ground but rather, deep in the soil.

Equally important are the communities dependent on them. Millions of pastoral groups such as the Dhangar, Rabari, Kuruba etc. depend on these ecosystems for grazing. When we fence off grasslands or plant "forests" on them, it's not just ecology we damage but also livelihoods, mobility, and local knowledge systems. In many cases, pastoralist groups are also stewards of biodiversity and ecosystem health. However, Indian grasslands and pastoralist systems have not received the desired protection and management.

What should be the road ahead?

Rather than trying to turn deserts into forests, we should study how life thrives without abundance. This is not to say that land degradation should not be addressed. Reversing degradation in drylands requires careful restoration that respects native vegetation, focuses on soil and moisture conservation, and draws from indigenous knowledge of land management. Low-tech solutions like water harvesting, rotational grazing, and protecting natural regrowth often outperform greenwashing projects that aim to plant millions of trees to "green" the desert. We need policies that recognise ecosystem diversity, reward soil carbon storage, and support pastoralist land use. A functioning desert or savanna, with its intricate food webs, seasonal rhythms, and cultural continuities, is far more alive than a failed monoculture plantation. Perhaps it is time to rename World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to World Day to Combat Land Degradation, and give deserts their respectable name back.

The authors are with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment.

THE GIST

- Deserts are occupy nearly one-third of the Earth's terrestrial surface, and are home to uniquely adapted plants, animals, and human cultures.
- In policy terms, a wasteland is land waiting to be fixed, often by planting trees, converting it for agriculture or paving it over for industry.
- We need policies that recognise ecosystem diversity, reward soil carbon storage, and support pastoralist land use.

Confusion persists as Cong. leaders continue to discuss leadership issue

Satish Jarkiholi's supporters raise slogans, saying that he will be the next CM. Event to launch development works in Mysuru set to be projected as government's 'Sadhana Samavesha'; there is no tussle in party, says M.B. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reiterated that he would be in the post for the full five-year term, confusion over the leadership in the Karnataka Congress seems to persist.

On Sunday, supporters of Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi raised slogans in Chitradurga that he would be the next Chief Minister, even as two senior Ministers continued their support to Mr. Siddaramaiah. This comes amid the Chief Minister's camp trying to project the 'Sadhana Samavesha' in Mysuru on July 19, where a slew of development works will be launched by Mr. Siddaramaiah, as a rally of show of strength on his home turf. Apart from State leaders, the event is expected to see the participation of central leaders.

Minister in charge of Mysuru district H.C. Mahadevappa, who participated in a preparatory meeting in Mysuru on Saturday, held discussions with MLAs, former MLAs, chairpersons of boards and corporations, public representatives, officials, and leaders from Mysuru and adjoining Chamarajanagar districts to make the event a grand success.

Offering prayers: Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with his wife, Usha, at the Sai Baba temple at Shirdi in Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, Industries Minister M.B. Patil told reporters on Sunday, "There is no tussle within the party. Whatever decision is taken by the high command will be applicable to all, including Mr. Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar, and me." He added, "It is natural that Mr. Siddaramaiah said he is the Chief Minister now, and he will continue for five years. What is wrong with that?"

To a question on the claim of legislators' support by the Chief Minister, the Minister said: "I do not know what he meant by that. In the current context, legislators' support is for Mr. Siddaramaiah. It does not mean that legislators do not support Mr. Shivakumar. He too has the support of legislators."

In Mangaluru, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told reporters that Mr. Siddaramaiah had the support of all legislators, including Mr. Shivakumar's. "He has himself clarified that he would be the Chief Minister for five years," he said.

Scoffs at speculation

Even as the leadership issue continues to plague the party, Mr. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister, clarified in a post on X that his visit to Shirdi and other places, including Delhi, was a private one, and that there need not be any politics attached to it. Sources close to him confirmed that he met the legal team to discuss his cases and no political motives need to be attributed to the visit.

Meanwhile, scoffing off the speculation over Mr. Siddaramaiah being asked to come to Delhi by the month end to discuss party matters, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said his Delhi visit was to attend a dinner with diplomats of other countries – an event organised by IT Minister Priyank Kharge on August 1 – and attend a seminar organised by the All India Congress Committee's legal cell on August 2. "The seminar is being inaugurated by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Mr. Siddaramaiah will be presenting a paper on 'Social justice: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision'. There is no scheduled meeting with central leaders during the visit as of now," sources said.

Surjewala's visit

It is also learnt that AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala will be arriving in Bengaluru on July 16 to continue with his meetings with legislators to elicit their opinion on party work and governance. This will be the third visit of Mr. Surjewala in as many weeks.

The Chief Minister is likely to discuss the nomination of four members to the Legislative Council with him.

'BJP threatening raids by Central agencies to force 55 Cong. MLAs to switch sides'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

Amid the ongoing tussle over leadership in the State, MLA for Hungund Vijayanand Kashappanavar's statement on the BJP attempting to coerce Congress legislators to quit the party has created a flutter in political circles.

"The BJP has drawn a list of 55 Congress MLAs and is trying to coerce them to quit the party by threatening raids by ED (Directorate of Enforcement) and CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) over alleged illegal wealth. They (the BJP) have already sent their agents to communicate the threat. All legislators, including me, are fearing now," he told reporters at Hungund on Sunday. Claiming that he was one of the legislators to be threatened, he said, "I do not care for such threats." He pointed out that raids on legislators Bharath Reddy and B. Nagendra, and MP E. Tukaram to justify his claims.

"The BJP has never come to power in Karnataka on its own. It has always been poaching Opposition MLAs. It has used fear and favour to lure them. People have the right to know such things," he said. To a query, he said he suspected that the BJP was planning another 'operation lotus' and was trying to get at least 55 MLAs to switch sides. "The BJP is upset that we are not joining them by quitting the Congress. The ruling party at the Centre is vengeful. It is misusing the constitutional agencies for its political benefits. Unfortunately, the common people do not know this. They are being misled by the BJP," he said.

> The BJP has never come to power in Karnataka on its own. It has always been poaching Opposition MLAs. It has used fear and favour to lure them. People have the right to know such things.
>
> **VIJAYANAND KASHAPPANAVAR,** MLA for Hungund

Senior Congress leaders ridiculed such moves by the BJP. While Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa said no one would leave the Congress, Industries Minister M.B. Patil said Congress legislators were not "tamarind seeds" to be just purchased. "Two-thirds of the 140 legislators will mean 75 legislators. Are they so cheap? They are not tamarind seeds," Mr. Patil said. Mr. Muniyappa said, "If ED raids have to happen, let them happen on all and not on a select few."

Dismisses allegation

Meanwhile, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi dismissed the allegation as a diversionary tactic. Stating that all need not fear, the Minister said only those who have ill-gotten wealth would be targeted by the agencies.

Devanahalli land row: Congress high command's intervention sought

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

65 prominent personalities write to Kharge appealing to him to ensure that the State govt. stands by the farmers demanding shelving of land acquisition

Ahead of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's meeting with Devanahalli farmers who are seeking shelving of land acquisition, 65 prominent personalities, including historian Ramachandra Guha and writer Devanur Mahadeva, have sought immediate intervention of the Congress high command to provide justice to farmers.

Open letter

In an open letter to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, the prominent personalities have appealed to him to act with urgency and foresight to ensure that the Government of Karnataka honours its word and stands by farmers who are demanding that process of acquisition of 1,777 acres of land in 13 villages of Channarayapatna hobli in Devanahalli taluk for the proposed aerospace park be shelved.

"The farmers of Karnataka are watching. So too are citizens across India, who look to your leadership to reaffirm that justice, accountability, and inclusive governance remain the hallmarks of the Indian National Congress. This is the moment to stand not only with the people – but for the principles they entrusted you to uphold," said these personalities who include environmentalist N. Yellappa Reddy, theatre artists B. Jayashree and Arundhati Nag, agricultural economist Prakash Kammaradi, progressive writer Vijayamma, and film-maker Girish Kasaravalli besides a host of former Vice-Chancellors.

Express concern

They expressed concern over some people in the government voicing apprehensions that meeting the farmers' demands may hinder development or drive industries to neighbouring States.

"This narrative appears to be paving the way for delays or a possible retreat from the commitment (made before the Assembly elections to farmers that their land acquisition will be shelved). Such backtracking will not only erode the credibility of the State government, but seriously damage the Congress party's standing among rural and agrarian communities," they warned.

"Ahead of the July 15 meeting with farmers, we urge the Karnataka government to initiate inclusive consultations – including industry leaders – to evolve a comprehensive, transparent, and balanced land acquisition and industrial land use policy," they said.

Pointing out that 163 affected farmers belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and much of this land was granted to them under land reform schemes, they argued that such land cannot be acquired or transferred without special permissions and protections. Circumventing these would violate constitutional guarantees and the spirit of social justice, they contended.

CM seeks Sigandur bridge inauguration to be postponed

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari stating that he was not informed about the inauguration of the Sigandur bridge and other works in Sagar, scheduled for Monday, and requested him to postpone the programme.

The Chief Minister in his letter dated July 11, which was released from the Chief Ministers' Office to the media on Sunday, said: "I have not been intimated about the programme in advance and an inauguration programme of development schemes is already scheduled under my chairmanship in Indi taluk of Vijayapura district on the same day."

Further, he said it would have been appropriate for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to have consulted the State government before finalising the programme. "I request you to postpone the programme and provide me a couple of dates convenient to you so that I would be able to join you," he added.

However, Mr. Gadkari will be visiting Sagar on Monday. He will be inaugurating the bridge, built across Sharavati backwaters, and lay the foundation stone and inaugurate several other projects at a programme to be held at Sagar. He will be accompanied by Union Minister for Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi and other elected representatives. As per the communique from the Shivamogga district administration, Public Works Minister Sathish Jarkiholi would also be present.

Suresh promises loans to encourage dairy farming

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The newly elected president of Bangalore Milk Union Ltd., D.K. Suresh, on Sunday told farmers that he had directed officials of cooperative banks to provide ₹2 lakh loan to them at 3% interest to buy two cows. Addressing a programme organised in Magadi to felicitate him, Mr. Suresh said such a measure was being taken to encourage farmers to take to dairying.

Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology & Research, Bengaluru
(An Autonomous Regd. Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru -560038
Ph: +91-80-25283013, +91-80-24492900
Website: www.kierbengaluru.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KIER invites tenders from eligible bidders for the supply of the following Medical Equipment in two bid system through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl.No.	Tender Notification No. & date	Subject
1.	KIER/TENDER/OCTA/2025-26/ Call-2 Dated: 11.07.2025	Supply of Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography machine (OCTA)

E.M.D.&Security Deposit : As mentioned in the tender document. Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**: **14.07.2025, 04.00 p.m. onwards.** Last Date for submission of tenders: **29.07.2025 upto 04.00 p.m.** Date of opening of Technical Bids: **31.07.2025 at 11.30 a.m.** For further details contact office during office hours. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject/ cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason.

DIPR/CP/JA/1792/2025-26 **Sd/- AO, KIER, Bengaluru.**

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Tongue-in-cheek remark

Amid shadow boxing over the 'power-sharing agreement' with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who seemed to be unhappy soon after he returned to Bengaluru from Delhi, made a tongue-in-cheek remark by asking lawyers "to seize the opportunity to sit if one finds an empty chair". Delivering a speech at the Kempe Gowda Jayanti celebrations organised by the Bangalore Advocates Association in Bengaluru on Friday, Mr. Shivakumar said, "I see many lawyers who are not occupying chairs despite the availability of vacant chairs, while we are struggling to find one. Getting a chair is not easy. When you get the chance, you must occupy it and not give up the opportunity."

Mr. Shivakumar's comments drew quite a laugh from the audience. If and when the KPCC chief will secure the chair he is desperately battling for since the Assembly election results in 2023 remains the moot question.

What's in the name of a bridge?

B.Y. Raghavendra, Shivamogga MP, recently suggested to the State government to recommend to the Centre to name the newly built bridge between Kalasavalli and Ambaragodlu villages as 'Sigandur Chowdeshwari Bridge'. It is scheduled to be inaugurated on Monday by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. The bridge provides connectivity to the temple nearby which has been attracting devotees from different places.

As per the official records, the structure is called 'Kalasavalli-Ambaragodlu Bridge'. Many feel that the same should be retained. A few people from Sagar, on social media, said it should be named after Sharavati, the river. Even as the discussion was going on, a resident of Sagar moved the High Court of Karnataka requesting that the bridge be named after former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, considering his contribution in realising the project.

Temple fair turns into political show

The decennial fair of Sri Lakshmidevi temple in Gokak town in Belagavi district, which drew lakhs of devotees last week, turned quite political with the gathering of several BJP rebel leaders. Following an invitation by Gokak MLA and former Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi *(in picture)*, a group of BJP rebels, including MLA B.P. Harish and former MLAs Arvind Limbavali, Kumar Bangarappa, Shrimant Patil, and Mahesh Kumathalli, and expelled BJP leader Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal attended the fair.

They used the occasion for a discussion on political developments at the residence of Lakhan Jarkiholi, MLC, and younger brother of Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi. Mr. Bangarappa told the media that they came to the festival on the invitation of Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi and termed the trip "more about religious than political". Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi said he does not like to talk about party politics when the whole town was celebrating the festival. Any takers for this line of argument?

Nagesh Prabhu
Sathish G.T.
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

We regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother,

M.MEENAKSHI
24 Mar 1947 - 12 Jul 2025)
Retd. Headmistress GSPT Chennai.
Last rites on 14 Jul 25, Mon, after 12 pm
Deeply mourned by
Children and Grandchildren
9444002312 / 9910013744

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	East-2	Indent No: BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT2327	₹ 4,93,700/- / ₹ 12,400/-	21.07.2025 at 4:00 pm	22.07.2025 at 4:00 pm
2		Indent No: BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT2328	₹ 4,58,900/- / ₹ 11,500/-		
3		Indent No: BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT2329	₹ 7,19,700/- / ₹ 18,000/-		
4		Indent No: BWSSB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT2330	₹ 7,29,100/- / ₹ 18,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

5	Central Stores	BWSSB/EE(CStr)/AEE/ASO/JE/STR/ 280/2025-26 Date: 08.07.2025	₹ 72,94,799/- / ₹ 1,45,900/-	21.07.2025 before 4:00 pm	23.07.2025 at 12:00 Noon

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central Stores)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

6	(WWM STP) CV	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP)CV/PB/177/ 2025-26 Date: 03.07.2025 (3rd Call)	₹ 11,69,391/- / ₹ 29,235/-	21.07.2025 upto 4:00 pm	22.07.2025 after 05:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP) CV

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/1763/2025-26

CACHE

REUTERS

How will YouTube's new monetisation policy impact creators?

YouTube said that on July 15, it would be updating its guidelines to "better identify mass-produced and repetitious content," leading creators to believe that low-effort Generative AI content may become harder to monetise

John Xavier
Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

In an update to the YouTube Partner Program (YPP) that allows creators to make money from their videos, YouTube said that on July 15, it would change its guidelines in order to "better identify mass-produced and repetitious content." The Google-owned video platform added that the change would better reflect what "inauthentic" content looks like. While YouTube did not directly mention Generative AI, many creators and content makers believe that the update will affect those who rely heavily on machine generated media to make their videos.

What is the new YPP policy?

YouTubers need 500 subscribers in order for their channels to be eligible to apply for the Partner Programme. After securing 1,000 subscribers, partners can unlock ad revenue and start earning from the ads shown in their videos. This is one way the company ensures that trusted, high-quality content makers are rewarded for their efforts rather than throwaway accounts trying to make a quick buck.

There are multiple ways to monetise content as a YouTube partner, with varying eligibility requirements and regional restrictions. Some of these strategies include advertising revenue, shopping, YouTube Premium revenue, channel memberships, and Super Chat/Stickers/Thanks perks that fans can pay for.

Monetisation is a serious matter for creators, especially for those aiming to grow a large audience and make high-quality YouTube videos a major source of their income. YouTube shared that it paid more than $70 billion to creators, artists, and media companies from 2021 to 2023. Naturally, many creators also get frustrated when their videos are demonetised for regulatory reasons they do not understand or agree with.

What is YouTube's monetisation history?

From its early days, YouTube's approach to monetisation has steadily evolved, moving from a largely open system to a more curated environment that prioritises original, authentic content. This progression reflects the platform's efforts to make the content stick for viewers so that more valuable space can be created for advertisers.

In the initial stages of creator monetisation around 2016, the rules were minimal. Channels could be monetised almost instantly upon creation without needing to meet specific subscriber or watch-hour goals. This allowed for the proliferation of "faceless" channels that primarily relied on low-effort content, such as compiling viral video clips without original commentary. These simple compilation videos could generate significant revenue with relative ease.

A significant shift occurred around 2018 when YouTube introduced its now-standard monetisation requirements – 1,000 subscribers and 4,000 hours of watch time. This policy was a clear signal that the platform was beginning to favour channels that could build and sustain a genuine audience. This update effectively demonetised many of the simple compilation channels that lacked original input. Following this, YouTube continued to refine its guidelines, targeting specific niches that were considered low-effort and repetitive. In 2019, channels featuring rain sounds or ambient noise faced demonetisation as they were often seen as non-transformative. According to the U.S. Copyright Law, a transformative use is a kind of fair use that builds on original content and creates something new.

By 2020, YouTube had also cracked down on the wave of channels that used robotic, text-to-speech voices to read Reddit stories, flagging them as "mass-produced" and unoriginal.

This historical trend will culminate in the upcoming July 2025 policy change. This latest update aims to "better identify" content that is mass-produced, repetitive, and fails to meaningfully transform source material.

YouTube has clarified this is an enhancement of long-standing policies, intended to remove content that viewers often consider spam. This move targets channels that upload high volumes of templated or AI-generated videos.

Is YouTube banning Generative AI content?

While YouTube did not explicitly mention that it was taking action against Generative AI content, this is what many content creators took the policy update to mean.

The use of synthetic content such as visuals, voiceovers, and art now raises complex legal questions about whether YouTube is giving users the ability to monetise content that could one day be hit with copyright strikes or lawsuits.

YouTube noted that it always required creators to upload "original" and "authentic" content to monetise as part of its partner programme. Its new policy says it will identify "mass-produced and repetitious content" but does not currently mention penalising such videos or banning them. Users will have to simply wait and see.

In essence, while genuine content creators who deliver well-produced original videos should not be impacted by the update, those who are simply pushing the same low-quality videos made with AI tools to rack up subscribers and views will face increased scrutiny in the future.

How does YouTube's new policy affect content creators?

For content creators, this policy shift underscores the increasing importance of originality and transformative work. Channels that simply aggregate content without adding a unique perspective or commentary are at high risk of demonetisation. Creators will now have to adapt by focusing on original and authentic videos, where a unique voice and personality can be established. The key takeaway for creators is to move beyond mere aggregation and to use their content to tell a story, offer analysis, or provide a unique and engaging perspective.

From YouTube's perspective, this new monetisation policy is a strategic move designed to improve the overall quality and integrity of the platform. By filtering out low-effort, repetitive, and spammy content, YouTube aims to keep users coming back to its platform regularly, which in turn encourages them to spend more time on the site. This is also good for its ads business.

A higher-quality content library not only makes the platform attractive to advertisers; it can also be used by its parent, Alphabet, as fodder to train its Gemini AI models.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Test your knowledge of the history, symbolism, and celebrations behind France's most iconic national holiday —Bastille Day

Prathmesh Kher

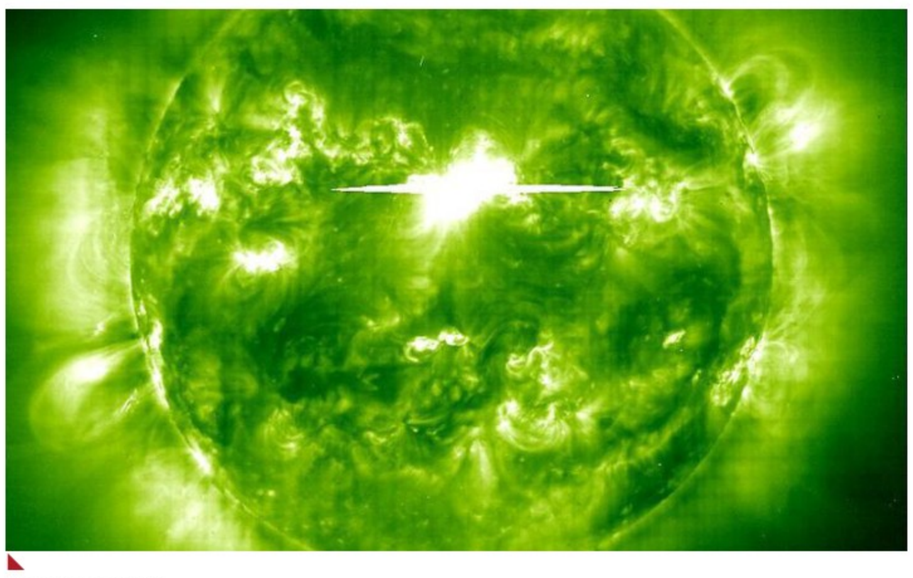
QUESTION 1
What was the original purpose of the Bastille fortress before it became a state prison?

QUESTION 2
Which American founding father was present in Paris during the early years of the French Revolution and observed the events surrounding Bastille Day?

QUESTION 3
How many prisoners were held in the Bastille at the time it was stormed on July 14, 1789?

QUESTION 4
Who was the commander of the Bastille on the day it was stormed, and who was later killed by the mob?

QUESTION 5
Which radical newspaper editor and revolutionary figure was assassinated in his bath the day after Bastille Day's first anniversary?



Visual question:
How is this solar flare connected to Bastille Day?

Questions and Answers to the July 11 edition of the daily quiz: 1. In this dystopian novel, this is the name of the omnipresent authoritarian leader. **Ans: Big Brother**
2. Name the fictional mysterious millionaire known for lavish parties and his obsession with Daisy Buchanan. **Ans: Jay Gatsby**
3. This book chronicles the Buendía family saga in this fictional town that symbolises isolation and cyclical history. **Ans: Macondo**
4. Known for its satirical take on the absurdity of war, _____ is named for a paradoxical military rule in its plot that traps soldiers in a no-win situation. **Ans: *Catch-22***
5. The plot of this book was subservient to its stream-of-consciousness style and exploration of time and perception. **Ans: *To the Lighthouse***
Visual: Name this British writer. **Ans: William Golding**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Piyali Tuli| Sukdev Shet| Arun Kumar Singh| Dodo Jayaditya

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I like the hustle and bustle of big cities

Don't rely on him for campaigning. He gets on the bandwagon only at the last possible minute

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of 'get on the bandwagon'? (Jyot Gulati, Rohtak)

When you 'get on the bandwagon', what you are doing is following in the footsteps of or following the example of someone else. You become involved in an activity that is successful, not because you are interested in it, but because everyone else is taking part in it –supporting the activity seems to be the fashionable thing to do. You are hoping to take advantage of the situation, and praying that some of the success will rub off on you. There is an ulterior motive for what you are doing; you are being opportunistic. People who get on the bandwagon, usually do so, only after someone or something has become successful or popular. For example, it is very common for people to get on the bandwagon of a candidate who is the frontrunner. It is also possible to say, 'jump/climb on the bandwagon'.

Neethu gets on the bandwagon whenever the college team wins something. Otherwise, she has no interest in sports.

Americans coined this idiom. The bandwagon in the expression refers to the colourfully decorated horse-drawn wagon, with a live band sitting on top of it, that circus owners used to send around town to both entertain and attract the attention of the public. This was the owner's way of informing the public that the circus was in town. When Zachary Taylor, a Presidential candidate, got on one of these circus wagons in 1848, the idiom began to be used in politics to mean what it does today.

What is the meaning of 'hustle and bustle'? (K. Saraswathi, Coonoor)

This is an expression made popular by the Americans. The 't' in both words is silent; the two words rhyme with 'muscle' and 'tussle'. The expression is normally used to talk about a noisy place where there are lots of activities going on. For example, when we enter a relatively big railway station in our country, we are struck by the noise and the numerous activities going on – people talking loudly and walking quickly, suitcases being dragged, vendors shouting, trains blowing their horns, etc. The noisy crowd and the constant movement produce an environment that is full of energy and excitement. It is possible to have this kind of energy and confusion in a smaller place as well. For example, when someone in the family is getting married, the week before the wedding, the house is full of hustle and bustle.

Every six months, I take a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

'Hustle' comes from the Dutch 'hutselen' meaning 'to shake'. It was borrowed into English, and with the passage of time, both the pronunciation and the meaning of the word changed.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Veritable:
often used as intensifier; not counterfeit or copied

Synonyms: authentic, bona fide, unquestionable, regular

Usage: *The meal was a veritable feast.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/veritablepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈvɛɹɪtə.bl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

CPI(M) leader M.A. Baby in conversation with mridangam maestro Umayalpuram Sivaraman at *The Hindu* office on Sunday. SHIVARAJ S.

M.A. Baby seeks Bharat Ratna for percussion artists

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby, a connoisseur of Carnatic music, made a strong case for awarding the Bharat Ratna to percussionists in India, stating that percussion music had reached "Himalayan heights" in the country.

"There is not only Umayalpuram Sivaraman. There were Kishan Maharaj, Alla Rakha, Zakir Hussain, and Samta Prasad. But the highest honour, like the Bharat Ratna, has gone only to Bhimsen Joshi, Bismillah Khan, M.S. Subbulakshmi, Ravi Shankar, and Lata Mangeshkar," he said during a conversation with Mr. Sivaraman at *The Hindu* office in Chennai on Sunday.

Mr. Baby's friendship with Mr. Sivaraman dates back to several decades. He added that the Music Academy and *The Hindu* should play a role in advocating for the Bharat Ratna recognition for percussion artists.

"This is the most appropriate platform to raise the question: why has a percussion artist never been given the Bharat Ratna? No one deserves it more than Umayalpuram Sivaraman. He is already a Padma Vibhushan awardee. The music fraternity should raise its voice for the recognition that is long overdue. Why is the government not listening to such a sane voice in the field of music and culture?" he asked.

He recalled an incident in which tabla maestro Kishan Maharaj criticised the Centre for its miserly attitude toward conferring awards on musicians. "Unless we live for 80 or 85 years, no national honour will come to us," Mr. Baby quoted Kishan Maharaj.

N. Ram, former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu*, who introduced the two at the event, said Mr. Baby first encountered Mr. Sivaraman's music during the Emergency, when he was semi-underground and courted arrest. "His elder brother advised him to visit a temple and listen to concerts. That is how he first discovered Mr. Sivaraman's music," he added.

Kota Srinivasa Rao, veteran Telugu actor, passes away

Multifaceted actor worked in more than 750 films; his dialogue delivery in Telangana slang earned him several fans; he leaves behind an indelible mark as a comedian, villain and character artiste

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

KOTA SRINIVASA RAO: 1942 - 2025

Veteran Telugu actor Kota Srinivasa Rao, who gave a new style to villainous and comedic roles, passed away in the early hours of Sunday at his residence in Hyderabad. He was 83.

A former BJP MLA from Vijayawada, the senior actor, popularly known as Kota, had been unwell due to age-related issues for the past few months.

With a career spanning over four decades, Kota acted in more than 750 films and left his indelible mark in comedic, villainous, and character artist roles.

His unique dialogue delivery in Telangana slang made him a household name.

Born in Kankipadu village, a suburb of Vijayawada, on July 10, 1942, Kota Srinivasa Rao initially pursued a course in Bachelor of Science to fulfil his father's desire to see his son follow in his footsteps and become a doctor like him. But the pull of acting proved irresistible, and he was drawn to theatre.

From stage to films

The actor began his journey as a theatre artiste and later transitioned into films.

Though born in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, he used the Telangana dialect with brilliance to make a name for himself. He shot to fame with his portrayal of a politician in the award-winning film *Prathighatana*, in which he played a villainous comedian role with unparalleled conviction and finesse.

With his comedy in *Aha Naa Pellanta*, he reached new peaks and none can forget his memorable dialogues from Ram Gopal Verma's *Gaayam* that are the favourites of meme creators even now.

Inspired by his friend and co-actor Babu Mohan, he took the plunge into politics and won from the Vijayawada constituency in the combined Andhra Pradesh on BJP ticket and served as an MLA from 1999 to 2004. Later, he concentrated on films, realising that politics was not his cup of tea.

Personal tragedy

The actor married Rukmini and the couple had three children, two daughters and a son. Their son, Kota Venkata Anjaneya Prasad, who also acted in J.D. Chakravarthy's film *Siddham* and alongside his father in *Gaayam 2*, died in a road accident in Hyderabad in 2010.

An outspoken man, Kota was deeply distressed when his son passed away and he was a shattered man since then. For the last few years, he hardly did any film assignments, confining himself to home due to age-related issues.

"He would at times share his emotional burdens. But once the camera rolled, he transformed," recalls senior director Devi Prasad.

Kota was given the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2015, and he also received numerous awards from State governments and film associations.

His contribution to Telugu cinema is immeasurable and he will have his own page in the Telugu film industry for infusing freshness into comedy and character roles during his period.

Condolences pour in

Many prominent celebrities and politicians across the Telugu States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana expressed deep shock and shared their condolences on his passing

Actors Chiranjeevi, Jr NTR, Ravi Teja, Mahesh Babu and filmmakers S.S. Rajamouli, Ram Gopal Varma expressed grief and showered praises on the late actor.

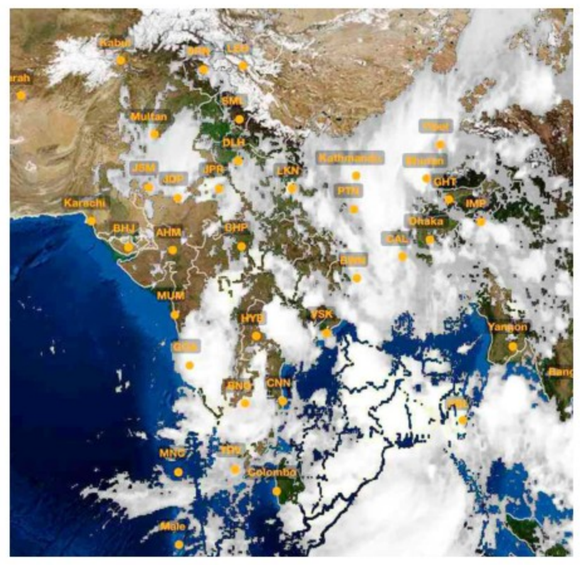
In Telangana, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and BJP State president Ramachander Rao condoled Kota's death, stating the film industry lost an actor par excellence.

In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM K. Pawan Kalyan, YSR Congress Party president and former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, and actor and Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna highlighted the actor's contributions to the field of Telugu cinema and stated that his demise was an irreparable loss.

(With inputs from P. Sujatha Varma)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.0	35.0	27.4	Kozhikode	0.2	32.0	24.4
Ahmedabad	3.0	33.2	26.9	Kurnool	2.1	34.0	25.2
Aizawl	—	31.2	23.9	Lucknow	39.0	33.7	25.0
Allahabad	0.2	31.8	26.5	Madurai	—	41.5	27.6
Bengaluru	1.1	27.6	20.9	Mangaluru	10.4	26.8	23.5
Bhopal	36.0	27.0	23.8	Mumbai	0.2	31.0	26.4
Bhubaneswar	12.0	35.8	25.5	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.4
Chandigarh	0.2	35.0	27.1	New Delhi	16.0	34.8	25.1
Chennai	26.0	38.2	26.0	Patna	—	38.3	29.4
Coimbatore	—	31.6	23.0	Port Blair	1.0	30.5	26.4
Dehradun	4.0	33.3	24.2	Puducherry	—	38.0	28.0
Gangtok	9.0	24.5	18.6	Pune	—	30.4	23.7
Goa	7.0	31.4	25.4	Raipur	—	32.4	26.2
Guwahati	—	36.7	28.4	Ranchi	13.0	29.9	23.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	0.1	26.1	18.8
Hyderabad	—	33.5	24.0	Shimla	15.0	23.4	16.6
Imphal	—	31.3	26.9	Srinagar	—	31.6	18.5
Jaipur	0.7	31.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	31.7	23.6
Kochi	19.0	29.8	23.6	Tiruchi	—	38.9	27.4
Kohima	—	31.8	20.2	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	8.0	34.4	25.4	Visakhapatnam	—	35.7	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.12	.99	.55	22	56	
Bengaluru	.11	.14	.34	38	145	
Chennai	.16	4	.31	23	40	
Delhi	8	.24	.28	47	128	
Hyderabad	5	.15	.17	97	89	
Kolkata	.11	.69	.24	35	35	
Lucknow	8	.41	.34	36	92	
Mumbai	—	9	108	38	63	
Pune	—	.24	.73	17	—	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.74	.33	68	118	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 270 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Karauli, Rajasthan recorded a healthy AQI score of 13.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

MLC's office vandalised for remarks on Kavitha; gunmen open fire in the air

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Taking objection to the 'insulting and outrageous' comments against Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K. Kavitha, her supporters and members of the Telangana Jagruthi stormed the office of MLC and YouTuber Chintapandu Naveen, known as Teenmaar Mallanna, on Sunday morning.

The protesters tried to enter the office of the YouTube channel run by Mr. Mallanna, and a scuffle broke out, leading to damage to furniture. The situation spiralled into chaos and Mr. Mallanna's gunmen tried to push the protesters out, during which several rounds were fired into the air inside the office.

Scuffle broke out, situation spiralled into chaos; MLC's gunmen tried to push the protesters out and opened fire

Rachakonda police officials clarified that no one was shot. "The injuries seen in the videos were not caused by bullets. His gunmen opened fire in the air in self-defence. The blood visible was due to cuts from broken glass structures during the commotion," a senior officer said.

Videos from the scene show blood on the floor and shattered furniture strewn across the office, capturing the intensity of the confrontation.

Mr. Mallanna, who was elected to the Legislative Council from the Warangal-Nalgonda-Khammam Graduates' Constituency in 2024 with the Congress party's support, was suspended from the party in March 2025 for anti-party activities.

He burnt the caste survey reports claiming that the population of BCs was suppressed.

Governor, Kerala govt. spar over 'Guru Puja' ritual

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Raj Bhavan and the Kerala government appeared to be set for yet another face-off over the 'foot worship' ceremony that was held in some schools in the State as part of Guru Purnima on Thursday.

While Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar strongly defended the practice as part of Indian culture, General Education Minister V. Sivankutty, who directed the Director of Public Instruction (DPI) to seek explanations from the schools, said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was piggybacking on the Governor to push its regressive practices meant to promote a slave mentality among students.

A file photo of students of a school in Kasaragod performing 'pada puja' of teachers.

Visuals of the ceremony, held in schools managed by the Bharatiya Vidya Niketan in Kasaragod, Kannur, and Alappuzha, showed students kneeling and washing the feet of teachers and offering flowers in a symbolic ritual of reverence.

In a foot-washing ceremony held at Vivekananda Vidya Peedom in Mavelikara, the students were made to wash the feet of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader too. The visuals had drawn widespread condemnation in socio-political circles.

'Part of our culture'

Speaking at a programme organised by Balagokulam, an RSS-affiliated organisation, in the capital on Sunday, the Governor criticised those who were against 'gurupuja'. "Gurupuja is an integral part of Indian culture. Some people object to it. I don't understand which culture these people are coming from. If we cast aside these practices, it will seriously affect the very existence of society," Mr. Arlekar said.

At a press meet on Sunday, Mr. Sivankutty said such practices being pushed by the RSS were alien to Kerala's culture.

"It is unfortunate that someone holding the position of a Governor would make such statements. I would like to know which particular text related to Indian culture celebrates the practice of students washing their teachers' feet."

"We are issuing directives to all the school authorities that no student studying in any school in Kerala should be made to wash the feet of teachers or anyone else," he said.

Mr. Sivankutty said that though the government had limitations in taking action against unaided school managements, they still require an NOC from the government to function. The government will decide on the action to be taken based on the DPI's report, which is expected in a week.

'Feudal culture'

Communist Party of India (Marxist) State Secretary M.V. Govindan said that the RSS is attempting to revive a ritual rooted in the feudal culture to push its agenda of implementing Chaturvarnya (caste system).

"We are not against respecting teachers, but that should not be an excuse to revive such feudalistic practices. Students were even made to wash the feet of RSS leaders. It is part of an RSS agenda to erode Kerala's secular and democratic fabric. The secular society of Kerala has to unitedly oppose this," he said.

Save Nimisha Priya, Kerala CM urges PM

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene with Yemeni authorities and save Indian nurse Nimisha Priya, who has been sentenced to be executed there.

In a letter to Mr. Modi on Sunday, Mr. Vijayan appealed to him to take up the matter and intervene with the authorities concerned to save the life of Nimisha Priya, "considering the fact that this is a case deserving sympathy."

Nimisha Priya was convicted in 2020 on murder charges and her execution has been reportedly fixed for July 16.

Godavari floods affect thousands in Eluru district, relief camps set up

Rajulapudi Srinivas
KUKUNOOR

More than 3,000 people were affected by the Godavari floods, with many shifted to relief camps in Eluru district. Food and medical aid were set up at the camps for the flood-hit residents.

Officials moved flood victims from Repakagommu and other villages to relief centres arranged at Taduvai and Mulagampalli on Sunday. Residents of Tekuru, Perantallapalli, Kacharam, Chittamreddipalem, Yadavalli, Koida, Kakisanuru, Tallagondi, Katukuru and other habitations were hit by the flood, according to officials.

The flood level at Bhadrachalam stood at 30.60 feet at 6 p.m., while Irrigation authorities released around 7 lakh cusecs from the Polavaram project. The water level was falling, said flood duty officials.

Precautionary steps: Villagers from Kukunoor mandal in Eluru district being shifted to safer places on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

District Collector K. Vetriselvi instructed Jangareddygudem RDO M.V. Ramana, DRDA Project Director R. Vijaya Raju and other officials to ensure food, water, medical services, electricity and other essentials at the relief camps. "About 250 families from Repakagommu and 170 families from Gommugudem were shifted to the camps," said Mr. Raju.

Kukunoor MRO Ramesh Kumar and Velerupadu MRO G. Satyanarayana oversaw medical care and distributed medicines at the camps. Officials arranged three borewells at Challavarigudem camp and tarpaulins were given to those whose houses were damaged in the floods, Ms. Ramana said.

Though river levels are dropping, the Collector instructed officials to set up pickets and stop villagers from crossing overflowing rivulets. "We have arranged relief camps at schools and colleges in Velerupadu. Boats are stationed in low-lying habitations as a precaution," Ms. Ramana told *The Hindu*.

Differences arise over name of new Chikkamagaluru-Tirupati train

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Just days after the new weekly express train connecting Chikkamagaluru and Tirupati was launched, differences have emerged over the name of the train.

While BJP leaders want it to be named after Dattatreya, the descendants of Syed Bababudan Shah Khadri have suggested the name 'Bababudan'.

Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna flagged off the train in Chikkamagaluru on July 11.

At the inaugural ceremony, Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council M.K. Pranesh said Dattatreya's name would be appropriate for the new train.

He maintained that nobody would oppose it. Lok Sabha member Kota Srinivasa Poojary said there were a couple of suggestions similar to the one suggested by Mr. Pranesh. "Dattatreya Express, Dattapeetha Express, or Dattapeetha to Srinivasa Peetha are among the suggestions," he said.

Responding to the pleas on naming the train, Mr. Somanna said the Railway Board would finalise the name based on the suggestions from elected representatives of Chikkamagaluru.

Memorandum to PM

A day later, Syed Faqruddin Shah Khadri, representing a trust of the Syed Budan Shah Khadri Descendants Committee posted memorandums addressed to the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister on social media platforms with an appeal to name the train after Bababudan, the Sufi saint.

Mr. Khadri maintained that the saint had been credited with bringing coffee beans from Yemen to India, and with that, laid a foundation for the coffee revolution in the country.

Besides that, the saint had been respected by people of all religions, he said.

When contacted over the phone, Mr. Khadri said the memorandum had been posted on social media, and that it would be sent to the Prime Minister's Office and others concerned through the Deputy Commissioner on Monday.

Need for a revamp

India's aviation industry must review crew resource management

The preliminary report flowing from the investigation into the crash of an Air India Boeing 787-8 at Ahmedabad, on June 12, 2025, has a focal point now. Released in the early hours of July 12, a month after the accident, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's 15-page document has highlighted the fuel control switches of "Engine 1 and Engine 2" having "transitioned from the 'Run' to the 'Cutoff' position, one after another, with a time gap of one second". That this happened just after flight AI171 had begun to lift off from the 3,505-metre-long runway, leading to the engines beginning to decrease from their take-off values as fuel starvation hit, has accentuated another detail. How did two separate switches that are guarded by brackets, feature a metal stop locking mechanism and have separate systems for redundancy move to 'cutoff'? And why? The element of bafflement by one crew member, and denial by the other pilot, over the cutoff, has compounded the issue, more so in the absence of the full and raw transcript of the cockpit voice recording. However, in the midst of the crisis, what must be acknowledged was a display of airmanship, with a partially successful relighting of the GEnx-1B70/75/P2 engines, which ended with the call of May Day.

While the key details in the report have evoked appeals by a pilot body for a revamped probe, especially to 'stop the bias towards pilot error', the investigation team must now stay the course to ensure that there is a sound, comprehensive and transparent investigation. There has also been focus on an FAA Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin of 2018 that concerns the potential for disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature, and applicable to the Boeing 787 aircraft family. In a reaction to the preliminary report and its findings, there has been some expert commentary on the topic of crew well-being, but in a counter to this, the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association has said that "pilots undergo extensive psychological and professional screening... and operate under the highest standards of safety". However, the subject of Crew Resource Management and Line Oriented Flight Training may need to be revamped, more so with this being an unusual incident of dual engine failure. Finally, despite the preliminary report's pitch of there "not being recommended actions that concern the aircraft type and the engine manufacturer", India's expanding civil aircraft fleet requires greater vigilance in terms of maintenance and operations. Airport funnel zones and obstacle limitations must be reviewed too as it is a given that air crew and passengers have safer flights.

Smoke and sulphur

There cannot be different environmental standards within India

The axe has dropped. The Environment Ministry has exempted the majority of India's coal-fired plants from mandatorily installing Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) systems, which are designed to cut sulphur dioxide (SO_2) emissions. In effect, this undermines its own mandate from 2015 that required all such plants – there are about 180 of them now, comprising 600 units – to install these systems. While these were expected to be in place by 2017, only about 8% of the units have actually installed FGD – nearly all by the public-sector National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). SO_2 is among the gases monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as exposure beyond a degree can be harmful. Less appreciated is its propensity to form sulphates in the air and contributing to particulate matter pollution. In general, India's average ground-level SO_2 measurements have been below the permissible levels – one among several reasons that there has not been a sense of urgency in implementing FGD norms. The official reasons are the limited number of vendors in India, high installation costs, the potential rise in electricity bills, and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the latest deadlines flew by in 2024, the Environment's Ministry's decision – it follows consultations with scientific institutions and new commissioned studies – is a sharp disavowal of the current policy. An expert appraisal committee says that Indian coal is low in sulphur; SO_2 levels in cities near plants with operational FGD units do not differ significantly from those without these units, and all of these were anyway well below permissible levels. The committee had said that concerns about sulphates are unfounded. It also argued, echoed by the Minister for Power, that sulphates had a beneficial side-effect in suppressing warming from greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, reducing sulphates would actually worsen warming and compromise India's climate goals. While IPCC assessments do account for the heat-suppressing action of sulphates, nowhere is it projected as an unalloyed good.

A minority of plants, about a fifth – those within a 10 km radius of the NCR; in cities with a population of over a million, or known to be in pollution hotspots – must install FGDs by 2028. This seems to suggest that what determines their installation is the location of a coal plant and not whether FGDs are effective or SO_2 is harmful. This is a rare instance when there are different environmental standards within India on controlling exposure to a pollutant. While it is not unscientific to revise understanding of the harms or benefits of substances, this needs debate in the public domain before a policy is changed. Otherwise it amounts to undermining India's commitment to scientifically informed public health.

Secularism — implicit from day one, explicit in 1976

Faizan Mustafa

is a Constitutional Law expert and presently serving as the Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna, Bihar

"God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. Yet his shadow still looms...", said Friedrich Nietzsche. As many as 66 Constitutions make some reference to God in their Preamble. True, Nehru led from the front in India's adoption of secularism. He explicitly said in his autobiography of how what he called "organized religion" filled him "with horror... almost always it seemed to stand for a blind belief and reaction, dogma and bigotry, superstition and exploitation". Nehru's strong views on religion did play a significant role in India's choice of secular polity. Unlike today's politicians, he did not need religion to succeed in politics.

Though the Supreme Court has said more than once that the term secular in India does not connote either strict separation between religion and state like in France or the non-establishment of religion like in the United States, the debate on the artificial imposition of secularism during the Emergency and the urgent need for its deletion continues though Indian secularism is rooted in Emperor Ashoka's Dhamma and is consistent with noble ideals of India's freedom struggle. Article 51A(b) makes it a fundamental duty of every citizen "to cherish and uphold noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom". Secularism was one such ideal.

Secularism spells autonomy

The advocates of Hindutva think that minorities have got some special privileges through secularism and that the time has come to bring an end to neutrality of the state in religious matters. Unfortunately, supporters of a theocratic state do not understand that secularism is basically good for religions as it protects religions from state domination and interference. Religions remain independent and autonomous under secularism. If a religion becomes state religion, the state takes over the control of such religion.

Our secularism ensures autonomy of the Hindu religion and the proponents of Hindutva must understand this. Has not Islam been destroyed through various so-called Islamic states? Mahmud Ghazni and Illtutmish defied the caliph and assumed the title of king . Zawabit or state-made laws prevailed over Shariah during medieval India. Did not Henry VIII defy Papal authority just to marry Anne Boleyn and create the Anglican Church with the King as its head. In the consecration of the Ram temple in January 2024, the state's decision prevailed over the theological view of the Shankaracharyas. The state, not religion, decided what is auspicious.

Is the salvation of souls really the mandate of a modern state? British Political theorist John Locke in his famous 'A Letter Concerning Toleration' (1689) forcefully said no because the state was brought into existence only for 'procuring, preserving, and advancing' citizens' civil interests. Care of souls, he argued, was not given to the state because the state consists of only outward force while religion consists of the inward persuasion of mind. Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island , favoured separation of the church from the state to protect the garden of the church from the 'wilderness of secular order".

Secularism could triumph in the 18th century because reason triumphed over religions. While secularism is nothing but an idea of modernity, a non-secular theocratic state is the relic of the past. Even if we are fed up with modernity, the moot question is this: should we become a Saudi Arabia, an Iran or a Pakistan? An overwhelming majority of Hindus do not want to emulate these regressive countries.

> The supporters of a theocratic state fail to understand that religions remain independent and autonomous under secularism

The importance of the Ashokan edicts

Should we reject secularism because this term was not used in the original Constitution? To say that India's Constitution became secular in 1976 is a blatant lie. Like several other things borrowed from Ashoka the Great who ruled from 268-232 BC, the seeds of Indian secularism too can be traced back to Ashokan edicts. Rajeev Bhargava has written extensively on the significance of these edicts. Rejecting the idea of one particular religion as a state religion, Rock Edict 7 said that all religions should reside everywhere, for all of them desire self-control and purity of heart. One of the biggest problems of today's India is hate speech. Rock Edict 12 prohibited glorification of one's religion and condemnation of others' religions. Ashoka's dhamma was not religion but the principles of governance, i.e., constitutional morality and ethics that a king must follow. He favoured the acceptance and co-existence of different religions and went beyond mere toleration.

The Motilal Nehru Committee's constitution (1928) which was the first attempt to draft the Constitution clearly stated in Clause 4(11) that "there shall be no state religion for the Commonwealth of India or for any province in the Commonwealth, nor shall the state either directly or indirectly endow any religion or give any preference or impose any disability on account of religious belief or religious status".

The Karachi Resolution of the Congress in 1931 which presented the blueprint of a future Swaraj in Resolution no 2(9), specifically declared that the "state shall maintain neutrality in regard to all religions". Even the Hindu Mahasabha's draft constitution of 1944 with V.D. Savarkar's blessings too declared in explicit terms in Article 7(15) that 'there shall be no state religion or either centre or provinces.'. Why do we refuse to follow even Savarkar?

On October 17, 1949 when the Preamble of the Constitution was under discussion in the Constituent Assembly, H.V. Kamath proposed that the Preamble should begin with the words 'in the name of God'. We should thank god that in an overwhelmingly religious country, god lost by 17 votes in a tally of 68 to 41. Similarly, the word 'secular' was not specifically included; yet, members, in one voice, spoke of it being a fait accompli of a liberal democratic constitution and consistent with the ideals of our freedom struggle. No member of the Constituent Assembly ever proposed a Hindu Rashtra including Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Three years prior to the insertion of the word secular, the Supreme Court had held secularism to be the basic structure in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973). Silences of the Constitution are equally important. For instance, the words federal, judicial review, rule of law too have not been used in the Constitution. But these ideas have rightly been held as part of the basic structure.

On the jurisdiction model

If we are really fed up with the separation model of secularism, we should consider the jurisdiction model. We have several options from modern democracies. Certainly, we may declare in the Constitution that Hinduism (not Hindutva) is the dominant spiritual heritage of India – just like in England where the Anglican Church is the official Church of England and the king is the defender of faith but recognises equal rights to all citizens ensuring freedom of religion and prohibiting all discriminations on the basis of religion. The Irish Constitution is another model. Its Preamble begins with the name of the Most Holy Trinity, but the state cannot endow any religion or discriminate on religious grounds. Article 3 of the Greek Constitution declares the Greek Orthodox Church as the dominant religion. The opening words of the Preamble are - 'In the name of Holy, Consubstantial and Undivided Trinity'. But Article 4 talks of the right to equality. Article 5(2) guarantees the right to life, liberty and honour without any discrimination based on religion and gives freedom of religion to all faiths. Muslims of Western Thrace in fact have the right to elect their own Mufti (religious and judicial officer) and their disputes are resolved in accordance with Islamic law. They have an option of either using civil courts or sharia courts.

Article 2 of Pakistan's Constitution declares Islam as the state religion. Only a Muslim can occupy high constitutional office. But even the Preamble itself explicitly lays down that the 'adequate provision shall be made for the minorities freely to profess, practice freedom of religion and develop their culture'. Moreover Article 36 again says that the state shall safeguard the legitimate rights and the interests of minorities including their due representation in the federal and provincial services. Accordingly, the Constitution makes a provision of reservation for them.

Though Article 9 of the Sri Lankan Constitution falls short of declaring Buddhism as state religion, it does give "Buddhism' the 'foremost place' and places an obligation on the state to protect and foster Buddha Sasna. Of course, it not only guarantees freedom of religion but (unlike India) in Article 10, explicitly gives 'freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of his choice'. Minorities are governed by their personal laws and sharia courts function within the premises of regular courts and High Courts.

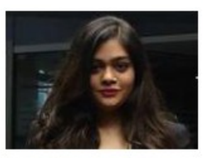
Our secularism based on Ashoka's Dhamma was designed to allow people to live together in civility and promote equal respect for all religions. The state must remain religion neutral. India's opposition to Pakistan was based on the separation of religion and state. The framers of the Constitution too intended a secular state, and not a theocratic state. Even the Bharatiya Janata Party has been insisting on its opposition to the Congress's negative secularism and used to promise positive secularism. If what was implicit from day one was merely made explicit in 1976, '*Humgama Hai Ku barpa* (what is the fuss about')?

The views expressed are personal

Assessing India's carbon credit trading scheme targets

Vaibhav Chaturvedi

is Senior Fellow at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)



Darshna Singh

is Research Analyst at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

The Indian government recently announced greenhouse gas emissions intensity of production targets for entities (such as a steel plant) operating within eight of the nine heavy industrial sectors covered in India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme's (CCTS) compliance mechanism. The eight sectors are aluminium, cement, paper and pulp, chlor-alkali, iron and steel, textile, petrochemicals and petro refineries. So, is there a way to understand whether these are ambitious targets or not?

The first question one needs to ask is this: should we measure ambition at the entity level, or at the sector level or the level of the economy? Our analysis shows that the ambition of India's carbon market targets should be assessed at the aggregate economy-wide level, and not at the level of individual entities or sectors.

An economy-wide lens is more important

We can look at the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, which is India's flagship energy efficiency programme for large industries. Under PAT, energy-intensive industries are given targets to reduce their energy use; those which exceed their targets can trade the excess savings with others. We analysed performance data from four sectors under the PAT Cycle I (2012-14) and found a mixed but interesting picture. In some entities, the energy used per unit of production (energy intensity) increased but decreased in others. At the sector level, energy intensity rose in two sectors (paper and chlor alkali) and fell in the other two (aluminium and cement). However, when we combined emissions, output and price data from all four sectors and adjusted for inflation, less energy was used, overall, to produce the same amount of economic output.

This shows that even if energy efficiency rises or falls in some entities or sectors, India's overall energy use can still become more efficient. We found similar behaviour across other PAT cycles and sectors. These observations give us a useful insight – India's PAT scheme was able to effectively use market mechanisms to achieve energy intensity reduction at an aggregate level. The decrease in overall energy intensity, even as it rose for some entities, shows that the market mechanism worked; those companies were able to buy energy efficiency certificates instead of undertaking costly in-house changes.

> The ambition of carbon market targets should be assessed at the aggregate economy-wide level, and not at the level of individual entities or sectors

But, this in itself does not tell us if the aggregate energy intensity reduction was aggressive or business-as-usual. This does, however, tell us that one should only analyse the aggregate target to infer whether it was aggressive or not. That is, for an externality-driven market, achieving reduction at an aggregate level is far more important than achieving the same at the entity level for 'all' entities. An emissions trading scheme does not bother about individual entities or sectors. It bothers about the economy-level aggregate effect, which is where, ideally, the ambition should be evaluated.

But are not entity or sector-level targets important to reduce emissions as well? A research paper by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) shows that entity or sector-level targets only determine financial transfers across entities and sectors, and not the overall emission intensity decline.

Comparing the new CCTS targets with historical sector-level performance under the PAT scheme also is not the most meaningful approach to assess ambition. Just because the reduction in emissions in the past has been modest at the industry level, it cannot be the case for the future. Our mitigation actions have to progressively become more ambitious than in the past. Therefore, only a comparison with a future trajectory aligned with a pathway towards India's stated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and a 2070 net-zero future is relevant. While the industry sector-specific CCTS targets cannot be directly compared with the economy-wide NDC target, economy-wide modelling assessments can give useful information in this regard.

Emissions intensity to decline

According to our recent modelling of a 2030 NDC-aligned emissions reduction scenario for India, the carbon dioxide emissions intensity of India's energy sector (per unit of GDP) is expected to decline at an average annual rate of 3.44% between 2025 and 2030. In comparison, the emissions intensity of value added (EIVA) in India's manufacturing sector is projected to decline by at least 2.53% annually over the same period. This suggests that in the near-term, industry may decarbonise at a slower pace than other sectors – particularly the power sector, which has more low-cost mitigation opportunities.

Against this backdrop, the combined average annual EIVA reduction for the eight sectors based on current CCTS targets – indicative of sector-specific commodity price data (a rough proxy for value added), and projected production growth rates – is estimated at 1.68% between 2023-24 and 2026-27. Early signs suggest that the industrial targets under CCTS may not be ambitious enough.

While this is not directly comparable since entities covered under the carbon trading scheme represent only a portion of India's overall manufacturing base, it is still the most relevant benchmark available until detailed modelling is done for all sectors. Ultimately, it is the aggregate decline that will determine whether India's effort is truly ambitious.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Systemic reforms needed

Custodial violence is not a new phenomenon. However, there continues to be violence against and the persistent torture of those in prison, depriving them of basic human dignity and rights. The police hide behind the veil of the authority given to them. The call to action is clear — introduce a comprehensive, anti-custodial violence law with strict investigation timelines.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Clinical Swaitek

Ruthless Iga Swaitek played immaculate tennis to crush Amanda Anisimova by serving a double bagel in the Wimbledon women's final 2025 ('Sport' page, July 13).
Swiatek has simply proved that she has all what it takes on grass. One felt very sorry for a disconsolate Amanda Anisimova.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The changing landscape of employment

S. Irudaya Rajan
Chair, International Institute of Migration and Development, Kerala

S.P. Mishra
Founder, India Career Centre, Hyderabad

Each year, lakhs of students graduate from universities, colleges, Industrial Training Institutes, and skill programmes in India. Yet the system continues to face challenges not only in accommodating them, but also effectively integrating them into meaningful employment.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) plays a central role in India's social security system by managing retirement savings for workers in the organised sector. With over 7 crore members, it remains one of the world's largest social security organisations. EPFO data serves as a valuable indicator of formal employment trends. The share decline in net new EPFO enrolments post-2019 reflected the pandemic effect on formal employment. However, the March 2025 data shows a steady increase in formal workforce participation. Young professionals, particularly fresh graduates, constitute a significant portion of new enrolments. The 18-25 age group consistently represents a large share with the 18-21 subgroup alone accounting for around 18%-22% of the total new subscribers in the recent months. The trend signals a push towards formalisation but demands a deeper analysis of job stability, wages and long-term financial security.

Youth unemployment

According to the India Employment Report 2024, published by the International Labour Organization and the Institute for Human Development, the youth account for 83% of India's unemployed population. Alarmingly, the share of unemployed individuals with secondary or higher education has nearly doubled over two decades.

The issue goes beyond unemployment; this is a crisis of unemployability. The Economic Survey 2023-24 states that only about half of India's youth are deemed job-ready after graduation. One in two lacks the digital and professional skills employers' demand, particularly in an economy undergoing rapid technological transformation. Moreover, the looming influence of AI threatens India's tech sector, putting several traditional job roles at the risk of displacement. Without adequate reskilling and upskilling efforts, the gap between graduate output and available opportunities will only widen.

Despite economic progress, India's workforce remains predominantly informal. The India Employment Report 2024 notes nearly 90% of employment is informal with the proportion of salaried, regular jobs declining since 2018. While contractual employment has grown, concerns about job security and social welfare remain unresolved.

Many young Indians struggle with technical skills. The report states that 75% of young people struggle with basic digital tasks such as sending an email with an attachment. Over 60% cannot perform simple file operations such as copy-pasting and 90% lack fundamental spreadsheet skills such as working with formulas.

These statistics are worrying given that the Future of Jobs Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum forecasts major shifts in employment dynamics.

The report states that by 2030, an estimated 170 million new jobs will be created representing 14% of total employment. However, 92 million existing jobs (8% of total employment) will be displaced. This means there will be a new growth of 78 million jobs, or a 7% increase in total employment. While these projections offer optimism, they also highlight the urgency of bridging the skill gap to ensure that India's workforce is adequately prepared for the evolving job landscape.

Urgent structural reforms are needed to address the growing disconnect between education and employment in India

What India must do

India stands at a critical crossroads. Without targeted policy interventions and expansive reskilling initiatives, millions of graduates will continue struggling to secure meaningful employment. Investing in education, vocational training, and digital literacy is essential for aligning the workforce with future job demands.

Urgent structural reforms are needed. First, there should be stronger collaboration between industry and academia, if necessary, by law. Each higher education institution must ideally have at least one formal partnership with industry partners. Second, educational institutions need to be held accountable for placements and not just educational degrees. We need to create accreditation systems for educational institutions aligned with job placements for the outgoing students. Idea Labs and Tinker Labs should be made mandatory components of every high school and higher education institution. The integration of the humanities, foreign language learning, and soft skills should be made mandatory across all levels of education.

Third, India needs to extend its focus beyond national borders. Skilling and training programmes should be designed to meet the needs of ageing societies in many Western nations, where the demand for young professionals is expected to increase. This approach aligns with the Indian government's strategy for enhancing the international mobility of skilled workers. The International Institute of Migration and Development is currently working as the Indian partner in the European Union's Link4Skills project that utilises the migration corridor framework to evaluate the skill demands and labour shortages in various European countries and beyond. Fourth, to drive these transformations, an Indian Education Services, similar in stature to the Indian Administrative Services, should be established; it would attract the best minds into the education sector. Finally, the education system should open its doors to professionals from the industry. This would help bridge the gap between theory and application.

Time is apt to restore J&K's Statehood

Peace is contingent on harmonious relations between New Delhi and J&K

STATE OF PLAY

Anando Bhakto

When one travels from Srinagar to Uri, the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant Governor (LG)'s overhaul of the region's challenging terrain is perceptible. His bureaucrats outline his main accomplishments: first, efficient transportation networks have facilitated better access to services, and tourism; and second, civilian killings and militant recruitment have considerably declined. The locals agree. Industrialists say the elimination of separatist infrastructure has allowed businesses to thrive. A section of the people appear to have moved on from the separatist discourse, but they do not explicitly admit it. They fear this would deflect from Kashmir's political questions, especially the need for a plausible political trajectory which remains elusive as New Delhi delays restoration of J&K's Statehood.

Political uncertainty culminating in political premonition serves nobody's interest. It needs to be replaced by an optimistic vision for the future, drawing from compassionate terms of engagement between New Delhi and J&K. Handing over full executive powers to J&K's elected government is the first step.

The Supreme Court (SC) in December 2023 recommended the restoration of J&K's Statehood but did not specify a deadline. Now is the apt time. Among many reasons is the urgency to not fritter the democratic participation that Kashmir Valley witnessed in last year's Assembly elections. A population reckoning with bureaucratic rule wanted to empower a regional leader. The people reposed faith in Omar Abdullah's capacity for calibrated navigation, hoping the National Conference (NC) would negotiate a respectable arrangement for J&K, at the least Statehood.

New Delhi ought to engage with and empower a Chief Minister elected with a historic mandate. It is advisable to also engage with other regional players, especially former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and emerging young leaders such as Waheed Parra. The mainstream leaders' secular politics is Indian democracy's asset. Trying to scupper them by facilitating political proxies will be preposterous.

Mr. Abdullah has shown political sagacity by repairing ties with New Delhi. But over a podcast recently, he lamented that he is unable to get work done as he has little authority over the officials. His presence merely as a custodian of status quo is causing dissatisfaction among the voters. It has also earned him accusations of pusillanimity, including from elements within his party, who are publicly advocating a more confrontationist course, significantly expanding their personal appeal. Mr. Abdullah could also animate his constituency with lofty sound-bytes, but he understands a collision course with New Delhi will not help J&K's case.

Sources say Mr. Abdullah is hopeful that Statehood will be restored in August. Acknowledging the people's will even when the Union government has the power to perpetuate the LG's hegemony will generate far more political optimism than economic implements could alone.

Only twice in history has Kashmir witnessed relative peace: from 1948 to 1952 when Jawaharlal Nehru empowered Sheikh Abdullah to effect social and economic overhaul; and from 1975 to 1984, following the Indira-Sheikh Accord to when Indira Gandhi toppled Farooq Abdullah's government. Clearly, 'peace' is contingent on harmonious relations between New Delhi and the State government.

Recently, a daily in Kashmir reported that restoration of Statehood will be followed by fresh elections, as the previous elections were meant for a Union Territory. This created a furore in Srinagar. It is unlikely that there will be another Assembly election. But the lack of a political roadmap built on consensus is deepening public apprehension.

Particularly alarming is the regional divide between Kashmir Valley and Jammu. An example of it was the mob violence in Jammu against a Kashmiri man accused of stealing. Such incidents underline the urgency of setting up a State Human Rights Commission and the SC-recommended Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In the foreseeable future, the BJP will remain the predominant force in Jammu, and the NC in Kashmir. The NC made a noble gesture by anointing its lone Hindu MLA, Surinder Choudhary, from Rajouri as the Deputy Chief Minister. It is the BJP's turn to reciprocate. Infiltration in Poonch and Rajouri is alarming. There is hardly time for procrastination.

Anando Bhakto reports on Kashmir and national politics

Of half a billion mobile money accounts globally, most are in Africa

Mobile money allows people without banks to securely transfer funds via text message, and its adoption is growing rapidly

DATA POINT

Simon van Teutem

By the end of today, you will probably have used your bank account – maybe to buy groceries, pay rent, or send money to a friend. It is something many of us take for granted.

However, for more than a billion people globally, transactions only happen with cash. That means carrying around physical notes and coins, travelling long distances just to send or receive money, and facing the constant risk of losing it or having it stolen. The absence of formal banking services adds yet another hurdle for people trying to escape poverty.

However, in recent years, 'mobile money' has transformed how many people access financial services. Mobile money differs from traditional bank accounts; you don't need a physical bank branch or even an Internet connection. Instead, you use text messages for services such as deposits, transfers, and payments via a mobile phone. In this sense, it is not the same as standard Internet banking.

Many people might be unfamiliar with how mobile money works, so let me briefly explain. You dial a short code for the mobile money provider, choose 'send money', and enter the recipient's phone number (which serves as their account number). Next, type the amount and your secure PIN. That's it – both the sender and recipient get an SMS confirmation within seconds. If you need to add funds to your mobile money account or retrieve your PIN, you can visit a local mobile money agent, often found in small shops or kiosks, which can be easier to reach than traditional banks.

In 2010, there were just 13 million mobile money accounts in the world. By 2023, this had reached more than 640 million**(Chart 1).**

But the total number of mobile money accounts doesn't tell us what percentage of people use mobile money. A small portion of people could each have many accounts. So instead of examining absolute numbers, let us look at the share of people with mobile money accounts in Sub-Saharan Africa. As **Chart 2** shows, the percentage of people in Sub-Saharan Africa with a mobile money account grew rapidly from 12% in 2014 to 33% by 2021.

Chart 3 shows how mobile money has contributed to the growth of total account ownership in Sub-Saharan Africa and across three countries. In 2014, one-third of adults in Sub-Saharan Africa had a bank account. By 2021, this had increased to more than half. The share that only had an account at a financial institution did not change over that period – the line is flat, at 22%. That means that almost all of the growth in this share has come from those getting a mobile money account (either on its own or alongside one from a financial institution).

One major barrier to using mobile money is still not having a mobile phone. The Global Findex 2021 survey asked adults without bank accounts why they don't use mobile money. A lack of money was the top reason. But the next most common was the absence of a mobile phone (probably related to a lack of money). While three-quarters of Sub-Saharan Africans in the survey now own phones, many countries still have low ownership rates.

Chart 4 shows the share of adults with a mobile money account against the share of adults with a mobile phone for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The two are positively correlated: unsurprisingly, people in countries with more phones are more likely to use mobile money.

Simon van Teutem is a writer and contributer at Our World In Data

From cash to clicks:

The charts were sourced from "There are now more than half a billion mobile money accounts in the world, mostly in Africa — here's why this matters" published at OurWorldinData.org (OWID). The text on the left is an abridged version of the story that appeared on OWID.

Chart 1: Number of active mobile money accounts (in crores). These are financial accounts managed via mobile devices.

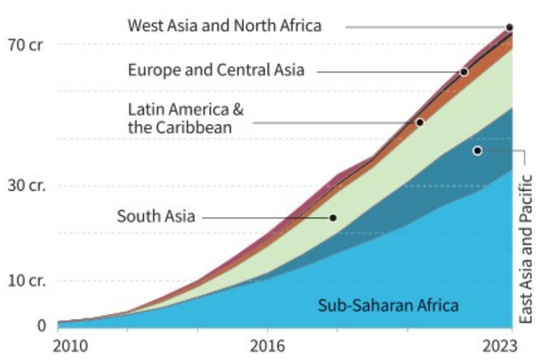


Chart 2: The share of respondents who personally used a mobile money service in the past year (in %)

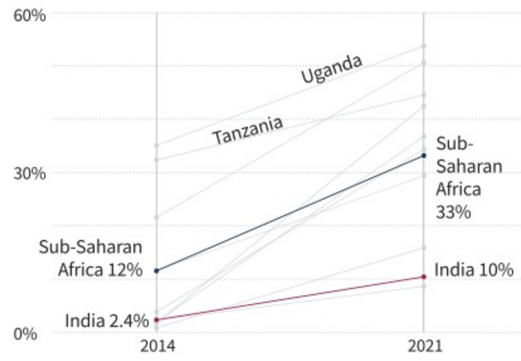


Chart 3: The share of adults who own a bank account at a financial institution only, as mobile money only, or both. The chart illustrates how mobile money has contributed to the growth of total account ownership in Sub-Saharan Africa and across three countries.

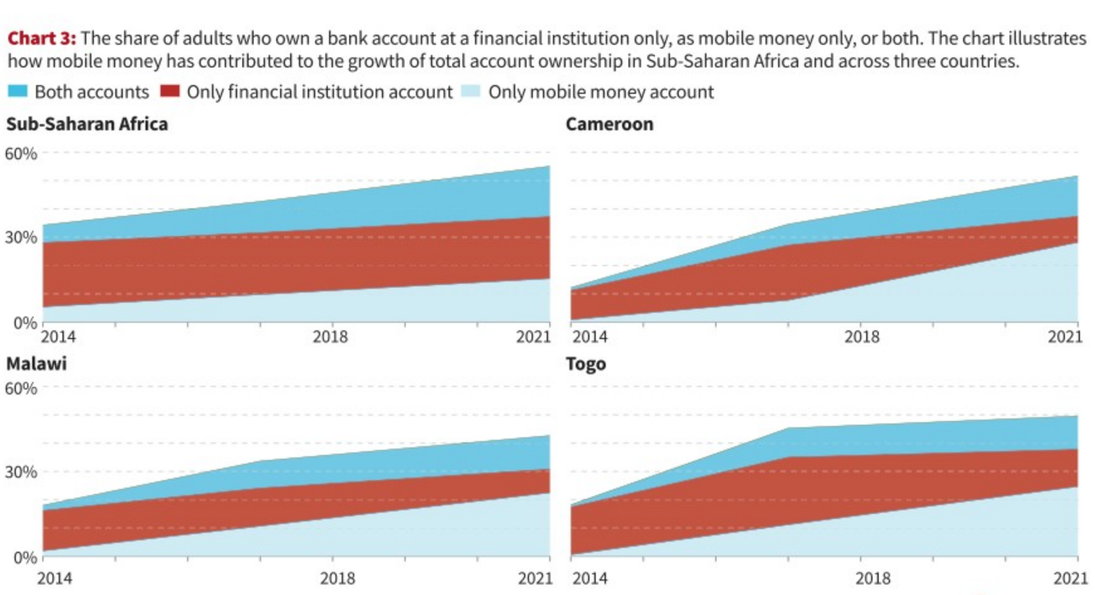
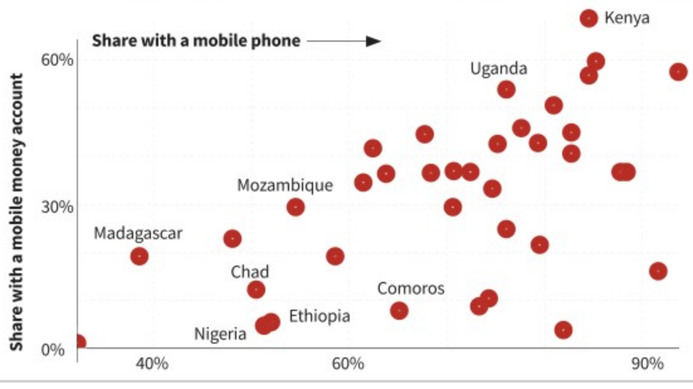


Chart 4: The share of adults with a mobile money account against the share of adults with a mobile phone for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

As the chart shows, people in countries with more phones are more likely to use mobile money



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 14, 1975

CIA in White House: Issue being probed, says Ford

Chicago, July 13: Charges that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had penetrated the White House during the Nixon Administration were being investigated, President Ford said on Saturday.

He expressed confidence that the facts would become known as a result of his own efforts, the expected inquiry by Congress and digging by the American press.

Mr. Ford was replying to questions at a news conference here. Asked about alleged CIA penetration of the White House and other Government departments, Mr. Ford replied: "As far as I know personally, there are no people presently employed in the White House who have relationships with the CIA of which I am personally unaware."

Mr. Ford's denial came at the end of a week which heard allegations, during a Senate Committee Inquiry into alleged illegal activities of the CIA, that the Agency had men within the White House.

One report had linked Alexander Butterfield, a former high-ranking White House official to the CIA, but Mr. Ford said there was no precise information on this.

Mr. Butterfield disclosed to the committee looking into the Watergate scandals that Presidential conversations at the White House had been taperecorded.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 14, 1925

Bombay mills crisis

Bombay, July 13: The labour leaders of Bombay went round the Mill area on Saturday and Sunday to elicit the views of the workmen on the Textile Millowners' proposal to reduce wages by 16 to 20 per cent and it was ascertained that the operatives were not prepared to countenance a reduction of wages, but were in favour of working shortime.

Some of the leaders are afraid that if the reduction is carried out there will be a general strike. One of them expressed the opinion that if this reduction is given effect immediately, the rowdy element will get an opportunity for creating trouble, but if this step be deferred there will be less chance of a disturbance. The Millowners' proposals are being explained to the men.

From Page One

Foreigners found in Bihar rolls, says EC

Replying to the question on the EC's claim, Mr. Yadav said the poll body is planting news through sources so that it can play its game behind the scenes. "These are the same sources that claimed we had captured Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi during Operation Sindoor," he said.

Bihar BJP spokesperson Niraj Kumar took a dig at Mr. Yadav. "Calling the Election Commission's source 'urine' is the real face of the RJD. They insult constitutional institutions, spit on democracy. Tejashwi's filthy language reflects his frustration over defeat, as the people of Bihar have rejected his negative politics. By questioning the EC's impartiality, does Tejashwi want to push Bihar back into the fire of jungle raj?"

On the question of data by the poll body, Mr. Yadav, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, said: "It is being reported continuously from the field that the forms are being uploaded by BLOs by using fake thumb imprints or signatures without the knowledge and consent of the voters. The figures merely show the uploading [of forms], while the EC has not given any guarantee of authenticity, consent and validity. The claims of the EC are completely contrary to ground reality." He further said that the EC's press release had stated that the documents can be submitted later as well, but no clear order or notification had been issued in this regard. Mr. Yadav also asked how nearly four crore Bihar migrant workers will be included in the list.

Various Opposition parties have questioned the EC and branded the SIR as "NRC [National Register of Citizens] through the backdoor" which will result in disenfranchisement of marginalised communities, minorities, and women who will not have the said documents.

Mr. Yadav also pointed out that the EC had not issued any formal revised notification despite the Supreme Court's advice to consider Aadhaar and ration cards as valid proof for the SIR process.

During the joint press briefing at his official 1 Polo Road residence, two videos were screened. In one video, many enumeration forms were seen with a jalebi seller in Jharkhand while another video showed discarded forms on a flyover near Gandhi maidan in Patna.

"The EC is silent on the possibility of fake uploading of forms. Today, a newspaper report from Jamui [close to Jharkhand border] showed a jalebi seller in Deoghar, Jharkhand, having thousands of these forms. Many videos have gone viral showing thousands of forms lying on roads," Mr. Yadav said.

He alleged that in many districts, booth-level agents of Opposition parties were prevented from actively participating in the process. "The EC is losing credibility due to the hasty manner in which voter forms are being uploaded. There have been many reports that BLOs and Electoral Registration Officers [EROs] are under pressure to reach targets for uploading," Mr. Yadav said. Criticising the EC, he said the SIR was an eyewash and was being manipulated on the instructions of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He further asked why the EC had not given any acknowledgement receipt after voters submit their form, and said the entire process was a "violation of informed consent" and increased the possibility of name deletion, rejection of objections and biased behavior.

The EC has given an "indicative" list of 11 documents to be submitted as proofs along with the forms which does not include Aadhaar, EPIC or Ration Cards.

Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in Bihar later this year.

Palakkad Nipah death puts 6 districts on alert

Health Minister Veena George said on Sunday that a detailed contact list and route map had been prepared and was awaiting release pending confirmation from the NIV.

Surveillance camera footage was examined to trace the contacts and to prepare the route map. A family tree of the deceased person too has been mapped out.

The Minister said that fieldwork in and around Kumaramputhur was ramped up on Sunday. Fever surveillance is going on and multiple health worker teams will conduct door-to-door visits to allay fears and provide guidance on precautions against the Nipah virus, which is widely believed to be spreading from fruit eating bats.

"We will bolster our fight against Nipah by strengthening the health teams involved in it and intensifying preventive measures as soon as we get the final confirmation from NIV, Pune," Ms. George said.

Ms. George urged the public to refrain from visiting friends and relatives in hospitals in Palakkad and Malappuram districts as a precautionary measure to prevent the potential spread of Nipah.

To minimise the risk of virus transmission, hospitals have been advised to limit the number of bystanders allowed with patients. Patients, bystanders and healthcare staff have been advised to wear masks.

As many as 543 persons across the State, including the 46 contacts of the latest Nipah victim, are currently under observation. While 208 of them are in Malappuram, 219 are in Palakkad, 114 in Kozhikode and two in Ernakulam. The latest episode marks the sixth Nipah case in Kerala within a year. In July 2024, a 14-year-old boy at Pandikkad (Malappuram) fell victim to the deadly virus, followed by a 24-year-old man at Naduvath, Wandoor (Malappuram) in September 2024.

No urgent safety concern in AI crash report: FAA

The U.S. regulator makes no new recommendation of safety measures for Boeing 787-8; it reminds counterparts of 2018 advisory on potential disengagement of lock on fuel switches on the aircraft

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The U.S. aviation safety regulator Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has written to its counterparts around the world acknowledging the preliminary findings in the Air India Boeing 787-8 crash of June 12 and informing them that the report has "found no urgent safety concerns" related either to the engines or airplane systems of the aircraft type, according to a senior official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Under scanner: A file photo of the wreckage from the Boeing 787-8 crash in Ahmedabad on June 12. PTI

The interim report of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), the Indian agency investigating the crash, stated that the switches that supplied fuel to the two engines on the aircraft shifted or "transitioned" to the 'CUTOFF' position three seconds after the aircraft became airborne. Later, there was a loss of engine thrust and both engines shut down, resulting in the crash.

In its July 11 notification, the FAA also acknowledged the reference in the report to its advisory in December 2018 about the potential of the lock on the switch that supplies fuel to the engine getting disengaged. But the U.S. regulator made no new recommendations on safety measures needed by airlines. "The FAA has said that it will continue to share relevant information," the official quoted above said.

Two-step action

The switches are guarded by brackets and feature a spring-loaded locking mechanism in order to prevent accidental activation. To move a switch from RUN to CUTOFF, a pilot has to perform a two-step action – lift the switch over a metal stop before pulling it down. While the FAA has not provided any new guidance, it has reminded the civil aviation authorities about its previous advisory, i.e, Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) dated December 17, 2018. There are 77 airlines across the world that have the Boeing 787 aircraft in their fleet. There are 171 Boeing 787 aircraft in the U.S., and 1,189 across the world.

The AAIB report said that Air India did not carry out the recommendations made in the FAA's 2018 advisory on the potential disengagement of the lock on the fuel switches that required inspection of aircraft, as well as replacement of the switches carrying specific serial numbers with "an improved locking feature". It added that Air India explained that this was so because the FAA bulletin "was an advisory and not mandatory". The report also found that no defects in the fuel control switch of this aircraft had been reported after 2023, when the throttle control module of the cockpit control panel was last replaced on this aircraft.

The FAA's Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin dated December 16, 2018, said the airworthiness concern is not an unsafe condition that would warrant airworthiness directive (AD) action. While an advisory provides a non-mandatory guidance, an AD provides mandatory guidance and recommendations to ensure airworthy aircraft.

ULFA(I) says missile strike killed two top leaders in Myanmar

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The banned United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent), or ULFA(I), on Sunday claimed that a missile strike by what it described as "colonial occupational forces" killed two of its top commanders at a camp located in Myanmar.

The outfit, in a statement, said the attack occurred during the funeral of its senior leader, "Lieutenant General" Nayan Asom, who it claimed had earlier been killed in a drone strike.

According to unverified reports from Myanmar's Sagaing Division, drone attacks also targeted camps of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), or NSCN(K). The ULFA(I) and the NSCN(K) are believed to share locations in the region, which lies across the 1,643-km-long India-Myanmar border.

ULFA(I) identified the deceased as "Brigadier" Ganesh Asom and "Colonel" Pradip Asom, stating they were killed in the early hours of July 13. It further claimed that "several members of the outfit and some civilians" sustained injuries in the incident.

"The occupational forces have continued the attack in the areas using fighter jets. We want to tell the indigenous people of Assam that we will avenge this brutal attack carried out by the colonial nation," the group said.

The outfit, led by Paresh Baruah, continues to refer to the Indian government as a "colonial" power and labels Indian security forces as "occupational forces". ULFA(I) remains the only armed group in Assam that has not entered into a ceasefire or signed any peace agreement with the Centre. It has maintained that talks can only take place if the issue of Assam's sovereignty is on the agenda.

The Indian Army and the Assam Rifles – tasked with securing the India-Myanmar frontier– said they were unaware of any operation of this nature inside Myanmar. "There are no inputs with us on the operation," said Lt. Col. Mahendra Rawat, a Guwahati-based defence spokesperson.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said he came to know about the the ULFA(I)'s claims but denied any involvement of State forces.

Kolkata Police constitute SIT to investigate rape of woman by student on IIM-C campus

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police on Sunday constituted a nine-member special investigation team (SIT) to investigate the alleged rape of a mental health counsellor by a student at the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

The police on Saturday arrested Premanand Mahaveer Toppanavar, the 26-year-old student, for the sexual assault inside the institute. The accused has been remanded in police custody and charged under Sections 64 (punishment for rape) and 123 (causing hurt by means of poison, etc., with intent to commit an offence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, based on the survivor's complaint.

CCTV footage sought

The Kolkata Police have sought the CCTV footage from the IIM-C premises. Questions have been raised as to how the counsellor could enter the institute premises at Joka in the city without making entry in the register at the entrance.

The police taking the accused to produce him in a court in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

According to the Kolkata Police, the survivor alleged that she met the accused inside the Lake View hostel on the campus, and had pizza and water. She reportedly started feeling dizzy after that but "wasn't allowed" to go to the washroom. She alleged that she lost consciousness shortly after and was subsequently raped on Friday. The institute, in a statement, has said that it is treating this matter with "utmost seriousness" and is cooperating with the law enforcement officials investigating the incident.

The West Bengal Commission for Women has taken *suo motu* cognisance of the incident. Chairperson of the Commission Leena Gangopadhyay said that she was in touch with the police over the incident and would visit the woman and her family.

"We want the truth to come out. If any social stigma or family pressure is preventing her family from speaking freely, that must be addressed. We are closely monitoring the developments," Ms. Gangopadhyay said.

The father of the survivor, however, has said that his daughter had no involvement with the accused.

The allegation of sexual assault at the premier Central institute comes within three weeks of the alleged gang-rape and assault of a 24-year-old student at the South Calcutta Law College, raising questions about the safety of women in educational institutions in the city.

J&K government, leaders of parties stopped from paying homage to 'martyrs'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, who is in charge of law and order, on Sunday barred the elected government and the regional parties from paying homage to the 22 civilians shot dead during an uprising against the Dogra ruler in 1931. Mr. Sinha chose the occasion to distribute jobs among the militancy-affected families in north Kashmir's Baramulla.

Dramatic images surfaced of Ministers and legislators of the ruling National Conference party being "detained" in their residences, with the gates locked up from the outside. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary, senior Minister Sakina Itoo and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's adviser Nasir Aslam Wani were among those "locked up". So were Peoples Democratic Party's Mehbooba Mufti, J&K Apni Party's Altaf Bukhari and J&K Peoples Conference's Sajad Lone.

Srinagar was covered in a thick blanket of security on Sunday. IMRAN NISSAR

Mr. Abdullah, who arrived on Sunday from New Delhi, was also put under house arrest. "To borrow from the late Arun Jaitley Sb - Democracy in J&K is a tyranny of the unelected. To put it in terms you will all understand today, the unelected nominees of New Delhi locked up the elected representatives of the people of J&K. The unelected government locked up the elected government," he said.

In contrast to the barricades and complete sealing off of the graveyard of the 1931 civilians in the Naqsband Sahib shrine in Srinagar's Khawaja Bazar, Mr. Sinha was accompanied by the police top brass in Baramulla in a well-attended function of locals, who included militancy-affected families.

July 13 was scrapped as an official holiday, and the practice of paying official homage was stopped by the Lieutenant-Governor after the Centre ended J&K's special status in 2019.

Mr. Abdullah described the L-G administration's move as "a blatantly undemocratic". "What a shame that true heroes who fought against British rule in all its forms are today projected as villains only because they were Muslims," Mr. Abdullah said in a post on X.

Ms. Mufti said, "The day you accept our heroes as your own just as Kashmiris have embraced yours, from Mahatma Gandhi to Bhagat Singh, that day, as Prime Minister Modi once said, the "*dil ki doori*" (distance of hearts) will truly end."

Tibet-related issues a 'thorn' in ties, says China, ahead of Jaishankar's visit

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Tibet-related issues, including reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, are a "thorn" in India-China bilateral relations and they have become a "burden" for New Delhi, the Chinese embassy said on Sunday. The remarks came ahead of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to China to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on July 14 and 15.

It would be Jaishankar's first visit to China after the ties between the two countries came under severe strain following the 2020 military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

In the last few months, India and China have initiated a number of measures to repair the bilateral ties after completing the disengagement of troops from the last of the two face-off sites in October last year.

Earlier this month, the Dalai Lama asserted that a trust of Tibetan Buddhists will have the sole authority to recognise his future reincarnation. China reacted angrily to his remarks and said his reincarnation should be approved by the Chinese government.

In a social media post on Sunday, Chinese embassy spokesperson Yu Jing said that members of the strategic and academic communities, including former officials, had made "improper remarks" regarding the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama "contrary" to Indian government's public stance.

"They should be fully cognizant of the sensitivity of issues related to Xizang, and that the reincarnation and succession of the Dalai Lama is inherently an internal affair of China, brooking no interference of any external forces," the spokesperson said.

China refers to Tibet as 'Xizang'. "In reality, Xizang-related issue is a thorn in China-India relations and has become a burden for India. Playing the 'Xizang card' will definitely end up shooting oneself in the foot," the Chinese embassy spokesperson said.

In China, Jaishankar is expected to hold bilateral talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the SCO conclave.

China is the current chair of the SCO and it is hosting the meetings of the grouping in that capacity.

P.S. Suryanarayana, former correspondent of *The Hindu*, no more

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Former Asia Pacific correspondent of *The Hindu* P.S. Suryanarayana passed away at his home in Chennai on Sunday. He was 75.

He served in *The Hindu* for nearly 23 years and has worked as foreign correspondent from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Singapore and the U.S.

His wife Jayanthi Padmanabhan said, "He was feeling a bit uneasy after lunch and we got ready to go to the hospital. But he collapsed. He was under treatment for excess potassium and was to go for a review with the cardiologist." The funeral will be held on Monday at 9 a.m.

After retirement, he worked at the Institute of South Asian Studies in National University of Singapore and then at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

He has written three books: *The Elusive Tipping Point*, *Grey Zone Governance in Geo Politics*, and *Smart Diplomacy - Exploring China-India Synergy*.

Shringla, Nikam, two others nominated to the Rajya Sabha

The nominees include C. Sadanandan, BJP leader from Kerala, and the Delhi-based historian Meenakshi Jain; Prime Minister Modi welcomes the move and praises each nominee's contributions to diplomacy, law, history, and social work

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To Upper House: (from left) Former Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla; Ujjwal Nikam, Special Public Prosecutor in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks case; C. Sadanandan, BJP leader from Kerala; and Delhi-based historian Meenakshi Jain.

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday nominated former Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla; Ujjwal Nikam, Special Public Prosecutor in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks case; C. Sadanandan, BJP leader from Kerala; and the Delhi-based historian Meenakshi Jain to the Rajya Sabha.

The Union Home Ministry notified the nomination. "In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Clause (a) of Clause (1) of Article 80 of the Constitution of India, read with Clause (3) of that Article, the President is pleased to nominate to the Council of States the following persons to fill the vacancies caused due to retirement of nominated members:- Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam, Shri C. Sadanandan Master, Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Dr. Meenakshi Jain," the notification said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the nominations, posting individual messages for the four nominees.

Mr. Shringla joined the BJP after demitting office and served as the Chief Coordinator for the G20 summit held in New Delhi in 2023, with Mr. Modi praising his work as a diplomat. One of Mr. Shringla's predecessors is the incumbent External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Nikam was the BJP's candidate for the Mumbai North Central seat, which he lost. Describing Mr. Nikam's contributions to the legal field and to the Constitution as "exemplary", the Prime Minister said that Mr. Nikam had been at the forefront of seeking justice in important cases.

Historian Meenakshi Jain, who was earlier accorded the Padma Shri, is among the Rajya Sabha nominees.

She has served as an academic at the University of Delhi, and authored several books on Indian history and civilisation, and indigenous education and languages during the British rule.

Mr. Sadanandan, a former teacher, lost both his legs in 1994 to violent assault by political rivals who resented his joining the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh despite hailing from a Left background. He was the BJP candidate from Koothuparamba in an Assembly election. The Assembly election in Kerala is due early next year.

Mr. Sadanandan's life is "the epitome of courage and refusal to bow to injustice", the Prime Minister said. "Violence and intimidation couldn't deter his spirit towards national development. His efforts as a teacher and social worker are also commendable. He is extremely passionate towards youth empowerment. Congratulations to him for being nominated to the Rajya Sabha by Rahstrapati *Ji*. Best wishes for his role as MP," Mr. Modi said.

Vacancy filled

The President nominates 12 people of eminence from various fields to the Rajya Sabha. Four such seats had fallen vacant and have now been filled.

Ahead of Monsoon Session, Congress to hold strategy meet to discuss key issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, scheduled to begin on July 21, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of the party's top leadership on Tuesday to finalise the strategy for the session.

Key issues likely to be discussed include the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the recent Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, the imposition of U.S. tariffs against India, and broader concerns around the state of the economy, inflation, and unemployment.

The Congress-led Opposition is also expected to raise the demand for the Deputy Speaker's post in the Lok Sabha, with eight-time MP from Kerala, Kodikunnil Suresh, being viewed as a leading contender.

The strategy meeting will be attended by the Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge; Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi; deputy leaders in both Houses; and the chief whips and whips of the party. The meeting will take place at Ms. Gandhi's residence and will also see participation from senior leaders who are part of the strategy group.

Sonia Gandhi

According to party sources, the Election Commission's SIR exercise in Bihar is expected to dominate discussions. The Congress and its allies in the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance have moved court against the exercise, terming it "unconstitutional" and alleging that it could disenfranchise nearly two crore voters in the State.

The party is expected to demand accountability for what it alleges were "lapses and losses" during Operation Sindoor, and to seek clarity on the sequence of events that followed former U.S. President Donald Trump's claim of mediating between India and Pakistan to avert a nuclear confrontation.

The issue of the impeachment of Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court, over alleged communal remarks, may also come up for discussion, with a notice for his removal motion currently pending before the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Meanwhile, the government is expected to move a motion for the removal of another Allahabad High Court judge, Yashwant Varma, who was indicted by a three-judge inquiry panel after half-burnt cash was discovered at his official residence earlier this year, when he was serving in the Delhi High Court.

Cong. MP flags Barak Valley's 'landlocked' status to PM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has sought improved, disruption-free connectivity for the Barak Valley in southern Assam, considered the birthplace of the BJP in the Northeast. He underlined the communication issues in a letter to the Prime Minister on July 10, drawing attention to what he described as the "landlocked" status, citing collapsed bridges, broken roads, and recurring landslides that disrupt railway connectivity.

Calling for a time-bound intervention, he urged the Centre to develop landslide-proof railway tracks and arterial highways, an alternative rail corridor, and climate-resilient bypasses to maintain year-round access to the region.

Nitish Kumar promises jobs, employment opportunities to one crore youth by 2030

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

More promises: With just months to go for the Bihar Assembly election, a poster of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seen at Purnia in the State. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Ahead of the Assembly election, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday promised to provide jobs and employment opportunities to one crore youth in five years.

Making the announcement on X, he said that between 2005 and 2020, over eight lakh youth in the State were provided government jobs.

"For the next five years (2025 to 2030), we are setting a target to double the goal by providing government jobs and employment opportunities to one crore youth. To achieve this, new job and employment opportunities will also be created in the private sector, particularly in industrial areas," he said.

He said, "For this purpose, a high-level committee is being constituted. Currently, under the *Saat Nischay* (Seven Resolves) programme, the youth are being provided with skill development training to connect them with self-employment opportunities. In the next five years, the ongoing programme for youth skill development will be expanded."

Skill development

He also said that a university will be established for skill development, which will be named Jananayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University in honour of Bihar's pride.

Mr. Kumar added that it had been the vision of his government since the beginning to ensure that more and more youth in the State received government jobs and employment opportunities.

"To further accelerate the pace of providing government jobs and employment, in 2020, under the good governance programme, *Saat Nischay*-2 was launched, under which we resolved to provide jobs to 10 lakh youth and employment to 10 lakh people," Mr. Kumar said.

He said the target was later increased to provide government jobs to 12 lakh youth and employment to 38 lakh people by August 2025, setting a total target of 50 lakh jobs and employment opportunities.

"I am delighted to share that, so far, over 10 lakh youth in the State have been provided with government jobs, and approximately 39 lakh people have been given employment, and the target of providing government jobs/employment to over 50 lakh youth will be achieved," he said.

Odisha woman critical after self-immolation bid; BJD attacks govt.

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Opposition parties attacked the BJP government in Odisha on Sunday, a day after a 20-year-old student set herself on fire on a government college campus in Balasore, as her complaints of sexual harassment by a faculty member had been allegedly ignored by the authorities.

Former Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal chief Naveen Patnaik alleged systemic denial of justice, while the Congress accused the government of failing to protect women.

The condition of the woman remains critical at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar. "The woman has been placed 98% on mechanical ventilation. As kidney was damaged, renal replacement therapy had been initiated. Dialysis has started," the AIIMS said in a bulletin.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, along with Deputy Chief Minister K.V. Singh Deo and other ministerial colleagues, visited the hospital. "Condition of the woman is critical. If doctors permit, air-ambulance facility would be extended for better treatment. We will take all possible steps to prevent recurrence of such kind of incidents. We will surely take stringent action based on the inquiry report," Mr. Majhi said.

The woman has accused an assistant professor of seeking sexual favours. As per her written complaint, the college teacher had even threatened to sabotage her career if she did not comply with his demands. The woman took the extreme step outside the chamber of the principal.

CM Majhi meets the parents and family members of the student. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She first submitted a written complaint on June 30. An Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) was reconstituted on July 1. The ICC recommended the transfer of the accused teacher, but the college failed to act on it. Authorities also delayed forwarding the ICC's findings to the Higher Education Department.

The woman had reached out to multiple authorities on social media platform, but received no concrete assurance. She had even met Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi to inform him about the complaint.

The accused teacher has been arrested, while the principal of the college has been placed under suspension.

The National Commission for Women said it had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the case. "An Action Taken Report must be submitted to the Commission within 3 days," it said in a statement.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050)

Mamata Banerjee to lead protest in Kolkata on July 16 against targeting of migrants

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will lead a protest rally in Kolkata on July 16 in response to what the Trinamool Congress described as the continued targeting of migrants from the State in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled States. The party will simultaneously organise demonstrations across West Bengal on the same day.

"If the Bengali language is insulted, if a Bengali is called Bangladeshi, it will not be tolerated at all. We will take to the streets under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee," senior Trinamool leader and Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said on Sunday.

The announcement assumes significance as the Trinamool Congress typically refrains from holding major programmes in the lead-up to its annual Martyrs' Day Rally on July 21. However, recent reports of alleged mistreatment of Bengali-speaking migrants in Odisha, Delhi, and Maharashtra appear to have prompted the party to initiate this protest mobilisation.

Mamata Banerjee

The ruling party stated that the protest was not merely political but a broader campaign to safeguard the "culture, identity, and honour" of the State. Trinamool MPs Sagarika Ghosh and Saket Gokhale visited Jai Hind Colony in Delhi on Sunday, where concerns had reportedly been raised over the treatment of Bengali migrants.

Ms. Banerjee has repeatedly condemned what she described as attempts to label Bengali-speaking individuals as "outsiders" or "Bangladeshis".

Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam drew attention to the case of Arati Ghosh, a 52-year-old woman from Boxirhat in Cooch Behar district, who was reportedly labelled a foreigner and excluded from the National Register of Citizens in Assam. According to Mr. Islam, Ms. Ghosh had to leave her in-laws' home in Assam and return to West Bengal. "I want to raise some questions for the anti-Bengali BJP leadership, who often dare to claim their love and respect for Bengal – a claim that is nothing but a vile falsehood," Mr. Islam said.

Ex-BJP functionary among 3 shot dead in Bihar in two days; Opposition slams govt.

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Three persons, including a former BJP functionary, were shot dead in separate incidents over two days in Patna.

While Surendra Kumar, former president of the BJP Kisan Morcha at Punpun area of Patna, and Waseem Anwar Khan, a local businessman, were murdered on Saturday night, Jitendra Kumar, a lawyer, was shot dead in broad daylight in Patna city on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police Parichay Kumar said criminals opened fire at the former BJP functionary when he was inspecting his field. He was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, where he died during treatment. The incident took place in the Pipra police station limits.

The police on the spot where a lawyer was shot dead in Patna on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The police said Khan was shot dead in the Mehsaul police station limits. One person was detained and a Special Investigation Team was formed in the case.

The lawyer was shot dead on Sunday afternoon in the Sultanganj police station limits. The attackers fled after the shooting.

"The Sub-Divisional police officer visited and collected evidence with the assistance of the forensic team. The accused would be arrested soon," Mr. Parichay Kumar said on the killing of Surendra Kumar.

"Waseem Anwar Khan, alias Puttu Khan, was shot at by three unknown criminals. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died during treatment," Superintendent of Police Amit Ranjan said. The forensic team seized a 9 mm cartridge shell from the spot while a 9 mm pistol and bullets were recovered further away, he added.

"As per preliminary investigation, the murder seems to be related to land and money transactions," Mr. Ranjan said.

The Opposition slammed the Bihar government over the State's poor "law and order" situation. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Tejashwi Yadav posted on X: "Now, a BJP leader is shot dead in Patna! Is there anyone in the NDA government willing to listen to the truth or admit their mistakes?"

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
kerala IT EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Tender No : ETPK/TC/227/2025-26
e-Tender ID : 2025_ETPK_764002_1

The last date of bid submission for the work of **'Construction of an IT Office building under 'QUAD' project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) campus, Trivandrum'** has been extended upto 23.07.2025.

For further details, please visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

Date: 14-07-2025 **Chief Executive Officer,**
Trivandrum **Technopark**

D3/517/2025

INBRIEF

Cabinet appoints Abhijat Sheth NMC Chairperson

The Union Cabinet has appointed Abhijat Sheth as the new Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC), replacing Suresh Gangadhar, who stepped down due to health concerns. Dr. Sheth, a cardiothoracic surgeon, said that his priority would be to improve quality of medical education, promote good governance, and foster teamwork to achieve governmental objectives. Dr. Gangadhar, former Chairperson, NMC, had submitted his resignation last October. "As there had been no suitable candidate available, his tenure was continued," official sources said. Dr. Sheth is also the President of the National Board of Examinations in Sciences.

India joins military exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia

India, along with 18 other nations, is participating in Talisman Sabre 2025, a major bilateral military drill led by Australia that commenced on Sunday. Now in its 11th iteration, the Talisman Sabre is the largest and most sophisticated warfighting exercise ever conducted in the continent, the Department of Defence, Australia, said in a statement. "More than 35,000 military personnel from Australia and partnering nations will deploy across Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales and Christmas Island. Activities will also be conducted outside Australia in Papua New Guinea," it added.

CCTV cameras to be fixed in 74,000 coaches: Railways

This will significantly improve safety of passengers, say officials; each coach will be equipped with four dome-type cameras placed at the entrance; cameras will be installed in 15,000 locomotives

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

High-tech surveillance: These cameras will have latest specifications and will undergo Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification by the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT. GETTY IMAGES

Following the experimental installation of CCTV cameras in passenger coaches in Northern Railway, the Indian Railways has decided to install them in all of its approximately 74,000 coaches across the countrywide rail network, officials of the Union Railway Ministry said on Sunday.

"This move will significantly improve passenger safety. Miscreants and organised gangs take advantage of gullible passengers. With cameras, such incidents will reduce significantly. To preserve the privacy of passengers, CCTV cameras will be installed in the common movement area near the doors," an official said.

The decision was taken on Saturday when Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the progress in installing CCTV cameras in locomotives and coaches.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Railway Board. The officials said that successful trials had been done in the loco engines and coaches of the Northern Railway.

Mr. Vaishnaw gave the go ahead to install CCTV cameras in all 74,000 coaches and 15,000 locomotives.

Complete coverage

Each railway coach will be covered by four dome-type CCTV cameras, with two of them placed in each entrance way.

Each locomotive will have six CCTV cameras. This will include one camera each at the front and rear, and on both sides of the locomotive.

Each cab (front and rear) of a loco will be fitted with one dome CCTV camera, and two desk-mounted microphones, officials said.

'High speed, low light'

The CCTV cameras will have the latest specifications, and will undergo Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) by the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT.

High quality footage should be available even for trains running at speeds over 100 kmph, and in low light conditions, the Union Minister told Railway officials, asking them to explore the use of AI on the data captured by the CCTV cameras, in collaboration with the IndiaAI Mission.

'Reaching Jarawa tribe of Andaman Islands for Census will not be tough'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Jarawas, one of the world's oldest surviving tribes, are mostly hunter-gatherers.

Conducting the 2027 Census among the six main indigenous tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will not be tough as the Union government has already made contact and is running several welfare measures for these tribes, says physician Ratan Chandra Kar, speaking to *The Hindu*.

The government has announced that the 16th Census will take place in two phases, with the reference date of October 1, 2026 in snow-bound areas such as Ladakh, and March 1, 2027 in the rest of the country.

Dr. Kar, who played an important role in providing healthcare to the Jarawa tribe of the Andaman Islands, began his work with the tribes in 1998, combating a devastating measles outbreak in 1999 that threatened the tribe's existence.

The Jarawas are one of the world's oldest surviving tribes and are mostly hunter-gatherers, living in nomadic bands of 40 to 50 individuals.

Explaining the population growth trajectory of the tribe, he says the Jarawas met the local population in September 1998.

The 2011 Census recorded 380 Jarawa individuals out of the 28,530 Scheduled Tribe individuals across Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The communities counted under the ST population also included Andamanese, Nicobarese, Shompen, Onge, and Sentinelese. Except the Nicobarese, all communities have been classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

With the next Census yet to be conducted, the Tribal Affairs Ministry has found it challenging to estimate the population of PVTGs, including in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while implementing targeted scheme-delivery programmes like the PM-JANMAN for PVTG households. According to this scheme's progress, the government has been able to identify 191 PVTG individuals in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

"At that time, their population was 260 and as of today, their population has increased to 647. This increase has been possible and achieved on account of the Central government's successful attempt to establish meaningful contact with them, winning their trust and developing friendly relations," Dr. Kar says.

He explains that in 1998, the population count was more of a "guess or estimate" based on limited contact but that the population count as of 2025 is "far more accurate" given the extent of contact made since then and the use of satellite imagery for this purpose.

Dr. Kar adds that the government has been able to provide sustained, targeted, and proactive medical care as and when required and because of this "we have successfully countered all such occurrences of new diseases/infections (measles, malaria, conjunctivitis, mumps, hepatitis, and others) without any significant mortality. The policy decision taken to provide proactive and preventive medical coverage without interfering in their own medicinal practices has led to this achievement of increase in population," he says, adding that this trust will ensure that officials get full access during the upcoming Census activity.

Andaman Trunk Road

Speaking about the impact of the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) in terms of access and intrusion in the tribal settlement, he says the best chance of survival for the Jarawas is "we leave them alone with minimal intervention''.

"The tribe doesn't suffer from any lifestyle disease including heart problems, diabetes, hypertension etc, deliveries are almost always normal and normal life span is up to 50 plus now. We only need to offer modern medical care as a supplement to their own system of natural medicine and immunity," he says.

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla prepares to head back home

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Stunning shots: Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla aboard the International Space Station during his Ax-4 mission. PTI

Ahead of his journey back to earth, Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on Sunday said today's India looks ambitious, fearless, confident, and full of pride.

"Forty-one years ago, an Indian went to space, and he also described how India looks from above, and you all want to know how India looks from here. Let me tell you, today's India from space looks ambitious, fearless, confident, and full of pride. Because of these reasons, I am telling you again, '*Aaj ka* Bharat *abhi bi sare jahan se acha dikhta hai*' [today's India still looks the best in the world]. Let's meet on earth soon," Group Captain Shukla, said at a farewell ceremony on the International Space Station (ISS).

After two-and-a-half weeks at the ISS, the astronaut will be embarking on his journey back to earth on Monday. Mr. Shukla, pilot of the Axiom Mission 4, along with three other crew members, is scheduled to undock from the forward-facing port of the ISS's Harmony module at 4.35 p.m. IST.

The crew's journey back to earth would take about 22.5 hours. Following a series of orbital manoeuvres after undocking, the SpaceX Dragon capsule carrying the astronauts is expected to splash down off the coast of California in the U.S. at 3 p.m. (IST) on Tuesday.

"My journey [to the ISS] is going to get over. But your and my journey is still on; the journey of our human space mission is a long and difficult one. But I can assure you that if we are determined, even stars are attainable," he said.

Thanking fellow astronauts at the ISS, Mr. Shukla said that they had made his and Ax-4 crew members' stay special.

"For the last two-and-a-half weeks, we have done a lot of science in the station, [and] outreach activities, and looked back at earth when we found time. It almost seems magical to me. These missions have very far-reaching implications beyond science. That is what I believe. Back from here, I carry with me a lot of memories, but one thing that really sticks to me is what humanity is capable of when all of us come together from different parts of the world and work for a common goal," he said.

After splashdown, Group Captain Shukla will undergo a rehabilitation programme for about a week, under the supervision of flight surgeons, to adapt back to gravity.

Curb sale of fake fertilizers: Chouhan urges Chief Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday wrote to the Chief Ministers of all States, asking them to launch a campaign for ensuring fertilizer quality. He urged them to take immediate and strict action against substandard and counterfeit fertilizers, reminding them that it was essential to provide farmers with quality fertilizers at the right time, at affordable prices, and of standard quality.

The Agriculture Ministry said in a release that the letter has been issued with the objective of curbing the sale of fake fertilizers, black marketing of subsidised fertilizers, and illegal activities such as forced tagging across the country.

Mr. Chouhan said the sale of counterfeit or substandard fertilizers was prohibited under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, which fell under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. He said it was the responsibility of the States to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers at the right places and locations where it was required.

"Therefore, States must strictly monitor and take swift action against activities such as black marketing, overpricing, and diversion of subsidised fertilizers," he said.

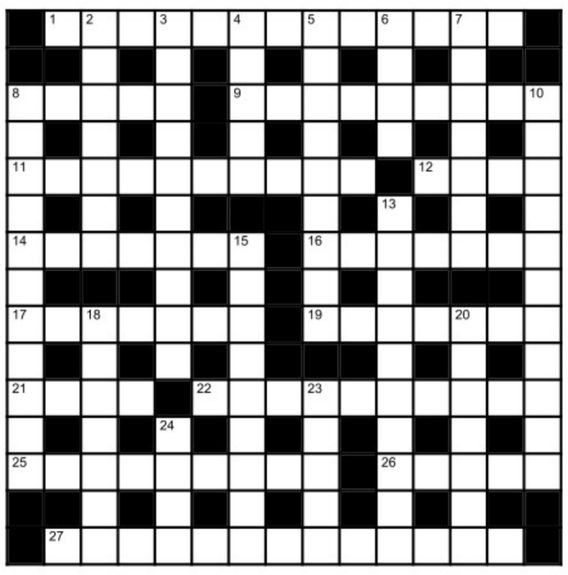
Urging the States to regularly monitor fertilizer production and sale, he asked the Chief Ministers to carry out regular sampling and testing to ensure strict control over counterfeit and substandard products. "Forced tagging of nano-fertilizers or biostimulant products along with conventional fertilizers should be stopped immediately," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14536

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Angrily pursues groper in lobby (8,5)
8 Rastafarian, primarily gaga about style of dance music (5)
9 Setting aside whiskey, brewed soup somehow and became less drunk (7,2)
11 Revealed throttling worker close to seedy bar in deprived area (10)
12 Sweetheart's a little lustful after back massage (4)
14 Sick critic taking drug is suffering from jaundice (7)
16 Fruits in field eaten by boys regularly (7)
17 Question in test about angular momentum and mass (7)
19 Turn tight, knocking back wine (7)
21 Guy removing top is fit (4)
22 Shooter's target is set with beast getting close, finally drawn in by trick (4,6)
25 Fascinated by sign above fourth doorway? (9)
26 Model is almost nude in river (5)
27 Sending to infirmary in ship, isolating at sea (13)

Down

2 Reigning prince killed in the club (7)
3 Dirty secret about last leader of Nigeria (10)
4 Loose nuts holding framework, essentially not yet fixed (5)
5 Space below new elevated dock (5,4)
6 Exceptional opening of restaurant for fine food (4)
7 Weakness is constant, taking oxygen for malady finally (7)
8 Composed neat, precise words of farewell (4,2,5)
10 What guitarist might do to use influence (4,7)
13 Disasters start to increase as climate changes (10)
15 Company member permitted to tackle president involved with others in law-breaking (9)
18 Very perverse loony grabbing model close to studio (4,3)
20 Director on vacation needs hash in German city (7)
23 Entertaining retro party, endlessly shout and sing with rapidly changing pitch (5)
24 Saw a spider trapping insect (4)

SUDOKU

3	4			8		1		
9		1					8	
	7	6	1					
		4		5	8			
		2		7		5		
			3	1		9		
					9	2	1	
	5					8		4
		3		4			9	5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6580 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

I	N	S	E	C	U	R	E		T	W	I	N	E	D
D		T		A		O		C		E		A		E
C	A	R	O	B		T	E	A	G	A	R	D	E	N
A		A		I		A		U		R		I		O
R	E	T	I	N	I	T	I	S		T	A	R	T	U
D		A		E		E		E		H				N
	A	G	A	T	E	S		S	H	E	L	L	A	C
T		E		M						T		U		E
R	O	M	A	I	N	E		B	A	R	E	S	T	
O				N		N		O		O		T		E
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O	N	A	S	T	R	I	N	G		E	V	E	N	T
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E	X	T	O	R	T		B	A	S	S	I	S	T	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	7	6	2	9	5	4	1	3
5	3	4	8	1	6	9	7	2
2	1	9	7	3	4	8	6	5
6	8	3	5	2	7	1	9	4
4	2	5	9	8	1	6	3	7
7	9	1	6	4	3	5	2	8
9	6	7	4	5	2	3	8	1
1	4	2	3	6	8	7	5	9
3	5	8	1	7	9	2	4	6

FAITH

God kindles your quest

Knowledge is power, but what is the use of acquiring it without letting go of worldly pleasures? One will keep repeating the cycle of births and rebirths, with no lasting peace or true realisation. Knowledge alone is not enough to bring inner peace, rather it will become a mental burden, said Ramanacharana Tirtha Swami (Nochur). Plants have life, as do birds, but what is the use of living like that? Man, who alone among creation has the ability to discern, should nurture the thirst for knowledge and *moksha* and seek the company of sages in order to be instructed on truth. Only then will such a person's life be fulfilled.

This Brahma Gnanam of realisation of the Lord is hidden inside the human mind. Great souls attain this knowledge of Brahman by focusing their minds on God, and distancing themselves from the clutter of a material world.

In *Vivekachudamani*, Adi Sankara emphasises this, saying, "*Jantu nam nara janmam dhurlabam...*". To be born as a human being is a rare gift and one should utilise it for spiritual progress and not misspend it in chasing impermanent goals that gratify only the senses and do nothing to uplift the soul. Ramana Maharshi had attained that inner peace and detachment, when very young. The Maharshi famously said, "*Pazhiyil vizhadha Ezhaiai Kaathu un padhathil niruthiveithanaye, azhiyaam karunai vallale Arunachaleswara*." (You saved me from falling into the pit, and kept me close to you, Arunachaleswara, Oh ocean of kindness). When one turns one's mind towards higher things, God Himself steps up to help such a person. As Krishna says in the *Gita*, "I will kindle the quest for Brahma Gnanam in those who repose faith in me."

Household assets, liabilities

Joydeep Sen

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) publishes data on financial assets and liabilities of households across India.

A disturbing trend it shows is net financial savings of households, as a percentage of GDP, is declining. Let us understand more about it.

Q1 of 2020-21, i.e. April-June 2020, was peak of lockdown and economic slowdown. In these months, net financial assets i.e. incremental flows were, surprisingly, higher than usual. It was 15% of GDP. GDP was itself lower due to economic contraction which contributed to it. In absolute terms, people saved and invested in financial assets, so the ratio was higher. In July-September 2020, net financial assets were lower at 11.7% of GDP. In October-December, net financial asset flows slid to 8.5% GDP. This is counter-intuitive.

At the height of lockdown when people were losing jobs and small businesses closing down, how can savings be higher? This is not usual behaviour. In challenging times, we generate an 'emergency response'. Over, 2020-21, net financial asset flows were 11.5% of GDP. In 2021-22, it was 7.2% of GDP and in 2022-23, it was 5.1%. In 2023-24, it was slightly better at 5.3%. This also is an interesting trend: when economic growth has revived, why did net financial savings slide? People are availing loans to fund assets like house or cars. The dip in savings, is net of financial liabilities. In 2020-21, financial assets were 15.4% of GDP; net of financial liabilities of 3.9% of GDP, it was 11.5%. Financial liabilities, from 3.9% of GDP in 2020-21 and 3.8% in 2021-22, rose to 5.9% of GDP in 2022-23 and 6.4% in 2023-24. When economy is growing, why do people need more loans? This concerns behavioural aspect: when one feels more secure, it's time to improve lifestyle even with debt.

RBI report

As per a report released by the RBI on June 30, among broad categories of household debt, non-housing retail loans, mostly used for consumption, formed 54.9% of total household debt as of March 2025 and 25.7% of disposable income as of March 2024. Moreover, the share of these loans has been growing consistently over years outpacing housing, agriculture and business loans.

Share of mutual funds in the overall pie is increasing. In 2020-21, MFs were only 2.1% of financial asset flows. In 2021-22, it surged to 6.1% and stayed at 6% in 2022-23. In 2023-24, it moved up to 7%. Household allocation to MFs at ₹17.3 lakh crore in March 2021 rose to ₹33.9 lakh crore in March 2024.

Takeaways, suggestions

The data reflects collective financial behaviour of people. However, you should have your own justification for behaving the way you do. The basis must be financial planning, preferably with inputs from a professional financial planner. The basic tenets are:

1) When you consider leverage to finance an asset, it is about quality: is it likely to maintain value or depreciate fast or is it just to fund a lifestyle? Real estate is the only asset that may appreciate in value.

2) If you are leveraged, EMIs should not exceed 40% of income.

3)Having an emergency corpus, equivalent to six or 12 months income, is important. It should be built in times of peace, not in times of war.

4) Investments must be distributed more to 'growth assets' like MFs than contractual return ones like deposits

5) Start systematic investment plan.

6)When you have surplus cash, it is better to pre-pay loans and cut EMIs. Return on investments, particularly contractual-return ones like bank deposits yield less than EMI interest.

Conclusion

Taking on liabilities to fund assets is a mixed bag. As long as EMIs are within a threshold of income and the asset is adding value, you may go ahead with it. However, assuming liabilities to fund lifestyle or conspicuous consumption is risky.

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Only a guide: While shortcuts can be useful, one should be careful while taking important financial decisions. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Some rules to open the gates of financial freedom

Financial freedom is shaped by variables such as age, income levels and risk tolerance; so, these rules may not work for all but are like a financial compass to guide you in the right direction

WAY TO RICHES

Vaishali R. Venkat

> Once you get a grip on the patterns and also the formulae, passed on by financial experts over time, it becomes much easier to attain financial freedom in life

> While the number-based thumb rules are shortcuts to crack the code of complicated personal finance decisions, one size doesn't fit all

A luxury flat, SUV, holiday tour abroad and at least ₹1 crore in bank balance are everyone's dream. However, only a few realise such kind of dreams and the remaining 'unlucky' lot end up thinking these are possible only for those born rich. Whereas most financial experts believe proper planning is all that is needed to become rich. Of course, financial planning could be a labyrinth of calculations and choices that might seem to be difficult to understand, but if you get a grip on the patterns and formulae, passed on by financial experts, it's much easier to attain financial freedom. Let's catch up with the numbers.

15*15*15 Rule

Not just the super-rich, even a salaried individual can accumulate ₹1 crore if he/she follows the 15*15*15 Rule. Save ₹15,000 a month for 15 years continuously, without any single default in monthly savings, in a 15% CAGR generating mutual fund. If he/she wishes to continue the same for another 15 years, he/she would have saved a whopping ₹10.5 crore. The magic lies in compounding and consistency is the key.

Rule of 72

It's a simple trick or a calculation to find out how long it will take for your investment to double at a fixed rate of return. To find the number of years, just divide the number 72 by the interest rate you will receive on your investment. For instance, if you receive 6% interest per annum, money doubles in just 12 years (72/6). Not just this, with this formula, you can calculate the ideal rate of return if you want to double investment in certain number of years.

Say, for example, if you want to double investment in four years, you should get 18% interest per annum. Just divide 72 by the number of years.

Rule of 114

The Rule of 114 is much like Rule of 72 and tells you when investment triples. Just divide 114 by the annual interest rate received to find out how many years you need for wealth to grow threefold. If interest per annum is 6%, money triples in 19 years (114/6). If you want to triple investment in just five years, you should get 22.8% interest per annum (114/5).

Rule of 144

This Rule tells you when your investment quadruples in value – just a simple division.

50/30/20 Rule

Budgeting is crucial to the country and to individuals as well. It might be quite complicated with limited resources and vast goals; however, the 50/30/20 Rule comes in handy to make the budgeting process easier and sustainable. Divide net-income (after tax deductions) into three major categories: 50% for essentials such as rent or housing EMI, groceries, medicines, utilities etc.; 30% for wishes such as entertainment, tour, shopping etc. and balance 20% for savings and debt repayment. Some financial experts add the debt repayment in the first 50% category leaving the 20% category only for savings.

100 Minus Age Rule

The most fundamental question in personal finance is on asset allocation. That is, how much money is to be allocated to buy risky assets such as stock markets and how much should be parked in conservative investment products. The 100 Minus Age Rule answers this dilemma. As per this rule, one must subtract his/her age from 100 to determine the percentage of equity portfolio, and the rest allocated to low-risk assets or traditional fixed/recurring deposits. If you are 30, 70% (100-30) of your investment can be in equities, and 30% in bonds, FDs, or other debt funds.

However, this rule cannot be taken blindly and just gives a fair idea. A young man who is the breadwinner of his family with more commitments can't invest 70% in equities, whereas a septuagenarian pensioner without commitment and is well taken care by children, can invest more in equities.

10X Insurance Rule

The 10X Rule helps an individual calculate the amount of life cover his/her dependents would require in his/her absence. As per this Rule, the term life insurance cover should at least be 10 times his/her gross annual income. However, this rule has its own limitations and might not be suitable for everyone. The Rule doesn't consider factors such as age, specific family needs, number of dependents etc.

While these number-based thumb rules are shortcuts to crack the code of complicated personal finance decisions, one size doesn't fit all.

So, care must be taken while taking important financial decisions.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager)

Experience vs. passion assets

THINKINVESTOR

It is debatable if spending on experiences is better than spending on passion assets; you must determine which gives you more happiness; then, your spending can, indeed, buy you happiness

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Investment is what you do with your savings. Spending is what you do to maintain current lifestyle. Then, there is discretionary spending, including spending on experiences and material goods. Here, we see why discretionary spending on some material goods can be just as rewarding as spending on experiences.

Experience vs. passion assets

You can take a trip to the Antarctic or enjoy a portside cabin on a Caribbean cruise. Those are experiences you are likely to relive when you share them with friends who made similar trips. Buying material goods, it is argued, is different. After a while, you get used to owning the product. So, happiness from acquiring a luxury watch, for instance may not last for long. Indeed, money spent on material good, it seems, cannot buy you happiness. At least, not as much compared with spending on experiences. But that argument does not hold for passion assets. When comparing memorable experiences with material goods, you ought to look at rare products not at some high-end luxury products.

Consider spending on passion assets such as antiques, art and rare collectibles. The memorable moment occurs when you acquire the asset for your personal collection. It could have been a lucky salvage hunt or a bargain buy at an antique mall or a high adrenaline auction, where you beat other bidders to acquire the product. The point is the story behind the acquisition and provenance of the asset can help relive the memorable moment when you narrate the experience to like-minded friends. Also, consider this: specific experiences become generic memory over time. So, it is moot if you can consciously recollect an experience you had 20 years ago. Also, passion assets are investments; you can sell them later for a higher price.

Conclusion

Both experiences and passion assets are part of discretionary spending. You indulge in such spending to improve emotional well-being. That, in turn, impacts financial well-being. The argument is you must be emotionally happy to physically and mentally apply skills to generate active income during your working life. That is why spending on experiences and material goods (read passion assets) is important. It is debatable whether spending on experiences is better than spending on passion assets. You must determine which gives you more happiness. Then, your spending can, indeed, buy you happiness.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.10	6.35	7.10	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.25	7.25	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.60	4.75	6.00	5.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.50	7.75	8.20
slice Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.75	8.25	7.75
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.40	7.50	8.15	8.40
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.75	7.65	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.50	7.25	7.25
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.25	8.00	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.60	6.25	6.50	6.50
Bandhan Bank	7.40	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	6.75	6.75	6.65	6.25
CSB Bank	7.40	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.55	6.30	6.40	6.25
DCB Bank	7.40	7.00	7.00	7.00
Federal Bank	6.85	6.50	6.70	6.50
HDFC Bank	6.60	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
IDFC FIRST Bank	6.75	6.25	6.75	6.75
IndusInd Bank	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.65
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.30	6.75	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	6.85	6.60	6.60	6.60
Karnataka Bank	6.75	6.60	6.25	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.60	6.25	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.30	7.10	7.10	7.00
SBM Bank India	7.50	7.05	7.05	7.50
South Indian Bank	6.70	6.50	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.05	6.80	6.25	6.25
YES Bank	7.10	6.75	7.10	6.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.40
Bank of India	6.70	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.70	6.20	6.20	6.10
Canara Bank	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.50
Central Bank of India	7.00	6.60	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	6.90	6.10	6.25	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	6.95	6.70	6.30	6.30
Punjab National Bank	6.70	6.40	6.40	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.05	6.10	6.00	6.35
State Bank of India	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.05
Union Bank of India	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.40

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70
Bank of Baroda	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.50
Punjab National Bank	7.55-9.35	7.50-9.25	7.50-9.25
Bank of India	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.35
Canara Bank	7.50-10.25	7.45-10.25	7.40-10.15
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7.35 #	7.35 #	7.35 #
Indian Bank	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40
Central Bank of India	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
ICICI Bank	8.00 #	8.00 #	8.00 #
Axis Bank	8.35-11.90	8.35-11.90	8.35-9.35
HSBC Bank	7.70 #	7.70 #	7.70 #
South Indian Bank	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60
Karur Vysya Bank	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40
Karnataka Bank	8.40-10.86	8.40-10.86	8.40-10.86
Federal Bank	9.15 #	9.15 #	9.15 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50
Bandhan Bank	8.41-15.00	8.41-12.58	8.41-12.58
RBL Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
CSB Bank	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08
HDFC Bank	7.90 #	7.90 #	7.90 #
City Union Bank	9.55-14.95	9.35-14.95	9.35-13.25
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.49 #	7.49 #	7.49 #
Tata Capital	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.25-11.50	8.25-11.50	8.25-12.35
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
ICICI Home Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

#onwards Rates as on July 9 Source:Paisabazaar.com

MOSCOW

Russia and China discuss Ukraine war and ties with the United States

AP

The Foreign Ministers of Russia and China discussed their relations with the U.S. and the prospects for ending the war in Ukraine, Russia's Foreign Ministry said. Russia's Sergei Lavrov met China's Wang Yi in Beijing on Sunday. Mr. Lavrov is due to attend a meeting of the SCO's Foreign Ministers in China. REUTERS

LAHORE

Imran Khan's party launches a drive seeking his release from jail

REUTERS

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has informally kick-started the 'Free Imran Khan movement' from Lahore demanding the release of the jailed former Prime Minister with the police making several arrests, the party said on Sunday. The informal launch comes less than a month ahead of the PTI party's earlier declared date of August 5. PTI

ABUJA

Nigeria's military ruler-turned democrat ex-President dead

AFP

Former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari — who led first as a junta strongman and later as an elected democrat — died in London on Sunday aged 82. Buhari governed Nigeria with a strong hand as a military ruler in the 1980s before reinventing himself as a "converted democrat", serving two terms from 2015 to 2023. AFP

DAMASCUS

Clashes in predominantly Druze city of Syria kill 18: war monitor

AP

Clashes between Bedouin tribes and local fighters in the Druze city of Sweida in Syria killed 18 persons, a war monitor said on Sunday, as authorities sent forces to de-escalate the situation. These clashes follow the fighting between members of the Druze community and security forces in the area in April and May that killed dozens. AFP

Israeli strikes kill at least 30 in Gaza, including six children at water point

Death toll in the besieged Strip crosses 58,000 following 21 months of war; Israel and Hamas appear no closer to making a breakthrough in indirect ceasefire talks; funerals held in occupied West Bank for two Palestinians killed by Israeli settlers

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip killed at least 30 people on Sunday, including six children at a water collection point, while the Palestinian death toll passed 58,000 after 21 months of war, local health officials said.

Israel and Hamas appeared no closer to a breakthrough in indirect talks meant to pause the war and free some Israeli hostages after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Washington visit last week. A new sticking point has emerged over Israeli troops' deployment during a ceasefire.

Sudden shock: The brother of a child killed in Israeli strikes that hit a water collection point in Nuseirat in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. AFP

Israel says it will end the war only once Hamas surrenders, disarms and goes into exile, something it refuses to do. Hamas says it is willing to free all the remaining 50 hostages, about 20 said to be alive, in exchange for an end to the war and the full withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Throughout the war in Gaza, violence has surged in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Funerals were held there on Sunday for two Palestinians, including Palestinian-American Sayfollah Musallet, killed by Israeli settlers.

In central Gaza, officials at al-Awda Hospital said it received 10 bodies after an Israeli strike on a water collection point in nearby Nuseirat. Among the dead were six children.

A witness who lives in the area said that around 20 children and 14 adults had been lined up to get water at the location of the strike.

'Technical error'

The Israeli military said it was targeting a militant but a technical error made its munitions fall "dozens of meters from the target."

Separately, health officials said an Israeli strike hit a group of citizens walking in the street on Sunday afternoon in central Gaza City, killing 11 persons and injuring around 30 others.

In the central town of Zawaida, an Israeli strike on a home killed nine, including two women and three children.

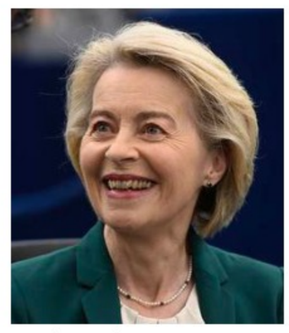
EU puts off retaliatory tariffs against U.S. in hope of a deal

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said on Sunday that Brussels will keep holding off on hitting back at U.S. steel and aluminium tariffs, as it seeks a deal to ward off broader 30% levies.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday threw months of painstaking negotiations into disarray by announcing he would hammer the 27-nation bloc with sweeping 30% tariffs if no agreement is reached by August 1.

"The U.S. has sent us a letter with measures that would come into effect unless there is a negotiated solution, so we will therefore also extend the suspension of our countermeasures until early August," Ms. von der Leyen told journalists. "At the same time, we will continue to prepare for the countermeasures so we are fully prepared," she added.



Ursula von der Leyen

The EU's current suspension of its retaliation over U.S. steel and aluminium tariffs had been set to expire overnight from Monday to Tuesday.

Brussels has readied duties on U.S. goods worth around €21 billion in response to the levies Mr. Trump slapped on metal imports earlier this year. But it announced in April that it was holding off on those measures to give space to find a broader trade deal with the U.S.

Deal with Indonesia

Separately, Ms. von der Leyen and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Sunday announced a "political agreement" to conclude a long-awaited free trade deal. The European bloc and Southeast Asia's largest economy have been negotiating since 2016 to agree a deal that is expected to increase trade and investment.

Macron announces €6.5 billion in extra military spending

Associated Press
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday announced €6.5 billion in extra military spending in the next two years because of new and unprecedented threats, from Russia to terrorists to online attacks.

The French leader laid out the spending plans in a sweeping speech calling for intensified efforts to protect Europe. He said France will aim to spend €64 billion in annual defence spending in 2027, the last year of his second term; that would be double the €32 billion in annual spending when he became President in 2017.

"Since 1945, freedom has never been so threatened, and never so seriously,'' Mr. Macron said in the French President's traditional speech to the military on the eve of the Bastille Day national holiday.

"To be free in this world we must be feared. To be feared we must be powerful,'' he said.

He insisted that France can find the money to spend more on the military even as it tries to bring down massive debts.

North Korean leader Kim reaffirms support for Russia in Ukraine conflict

Reuters
SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un told Russia's top diplomat his country was ready to "unconditionally support" Moscow's every effort to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, state media reported on Sunday, as the two countries held high-level strategic talks.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was on a three-day visit to North Korea, which has provided troops and arms for Russia's war in Ukraine and has pledged more military support.

Mr. Kim met Mr. Lavrov in the eastern coastal city of Wonsan where the two countries' Foreign Ministers held their second strategic dialogue, pledging further cooperation under a partnership treaty signed last year that includes a mutual defence pact.

Mutual beneficiaries: North Korea's Kim Jong-un, left, meets with Russia's Sergei Lavrov in Wonsan in North Korea. AFP

Later on Sunday, North Korea's Defence Ministry said it stood ready to take military action to counter any security threat, in a warning against South Korea, Japan and the U.S. following a recent aerial drill by the allies.

The warning followed a U.S. B-52 strategic bomber flight near South Korea flanked by the three countries' fighter jets in a defence exercise on Friday.

Russian gains

Meanwhile, Russia said on Sunday it took another village in the west of Ukraine's Donetsk region, as its troops advance towards the neighbouring Dnipropetrovsk region. Russia's Defence Ministry said Russian troops had captured the village of Myrne.

Seven arrested so far in Bangladesh scrap trader's lynching case

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

At least seven persons have been arrested so far, and a nationwide combing operation was launched in Bangladesh on Sunday in connection with the killing of a scrap trader in Dhaka, Home Affairs Adviser Lieutenant-General Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (retd) said.

Mr. Chowdhury said the operation was launched to maintain law and order and ensure pre-election stability following the gruesome murder of Lal Chand, alias Sohag, near Mitford Hospital on July 9, *Prothom Alo* reported.

A video of the incident that went viral on Thursday showed the scrap vendor being lynched with chunks of concrete slabs at Rojoni Ghosh Lane near Mitford Hospital following a business feud. After confirming his death, the attackers danced on his body.

The lynching sparked outrage across Bangladesh, even as hundreds of students took to the streets in Dhaka on Saturday, accusing the interim government of failure to contain mob violence.

Sport

Fynbos claims Zavaray S. Poonawalla Bangalore Summer Derby

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Fynbos (Trevor up) won the Zavaray S. Poonawalla Bangalore Summer Derby (2,000m), the stellar attraction of the races held here on Sunday (July 13).

The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, Mr. Vispi R. Patel & Miss. Anita J. Captain.

The stablemate Matisse set the pace till the bend, while Trevor confidently kept the gutsy filly in mid-bunch till the bend before manoeuvering the home stretch. Fynbos responded well to the reminders and galloped with giant strides to overtake the leader Prokofiev passing the last 150m and won resolutely.

1. TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA TROPHY (1,800M): INSPIRE (Antony) 1, Storm Shadow (Trevor) 2, Lux Aeterna (Ramswarup) 3 and Knotty Scotty (Akshay K) 4. 2-1/4, 1 and Nk. 1m 52.08s. Rs. 19 (w), 12, 13 and 19 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 49, FP: 66, Q: 57, Trinella: 423/162, Exacta: 1,069/324. Favourite: Inspire. Owners: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. Haider Soomar, Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

2. INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200M): MONEY BAGS (Akshay K) 1, Basilica (Trevor) 2, Bellavita (Srinath) 3 and Glorious Spectre (Dhanu S) 4. 6, 1/2 and 1. 1m 12.44s. Rs. 13 (w), 11, 18 and 16 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 45, FP: 47, Q: 32, Trinella: 117/68, Exacta: 722/389. Favourite: Money Bags.

Owners: Capt Jamshed J. Appoo, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal & Mr. J. Ramesh. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

3. MUMBAI CUP (1,200M): UCHCHAIHSHRAVAS (Neeraj) 1, Credence (Ramswarup) 2, Imperial Blue (Pavan) 3 and Star Glory (Darshan) 4. 1/2, Nose and 1-1/4. 1m 12.17s. Rs. 144 (w), 27, 14 and 23 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 41, FP: 573, Q: 217, Trinella: 3,641/1,652, Exacta: 82,606/35,402. Favourite: Masato.

Owners: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy & Mr. A.C. Subbaiah. Trainer: Neelesh N Rawal.

4. AMOKBASH B.T.C. ANNIVERSARY CUP (1,400M): PRANA (Suraj) 1, Crown Drive (Hindu S) 2, Meropi (Trevor) 3 and Knotty Charmer (Antony) 4. Not run: Berrettini. 3/4, 1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 24.11s. Rs. 32 (w), 15 and 38 (p), SHP: 57, THP: 44, FP: 261, Q:198, Trinella: 332/100, Exacta: 1,660/1,185. Favourite: Meropi.

Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

5. FIVE STARS SHIPPING MILLION (1,600M): BAYCHIMO (A. Prakash) 1, Arrived (S. Saqlain) 2, Knight Regent (Srinath) 3 and Cigar Galaxy (G. Vivek) 4. Lnk, Lnk and 1/2. 1m 38.05s. Rs. 185 (w), 36, 28 and 13 (p), SHP: 83, THP: 41, FP: 2,593, Q: 766, Trinella: 6,251/2,267, Exacta: 15,805/16,934. Favourite: Schoenberg.

Owners: Diamond Band Rac Syn Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Shiven Surendranath, Mr. Kersi H. Vachha, Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat & Dr. Syed Ainuddin Arif. Trainer: Adhiraj S Jodha.

6. ZAVARAY S. POONAWALLA BANGALORE SUMMER DERBY (2,000M): FYNBOS (Kingda Ka - Mahali) Trevor 1, Prokofiev (Leitir Mor - Balmoral Castle) Suraj 2, Miracle Star (Excellent Art - Romantic Star) Neeraj 3 and Red Bishop (Kingda Ka - Solar Midnight) Sandesh 4. 3-1/2, 2 and 1/2. 2m 03.28s. Rs. 27 (w), 14, 16 and 80 (p), SHP: 51, THP: 195, FP: 82, Q: 55, Trinella: 1,633/1,866, Exacta: 11,975/2,979. Favourite: Fynbos.

Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, Mr. Vispi R. Patel & Miss. Anita J. Captain. Trainer: P. Shroff.

7. HYDERABAD SALVER (1,400M): PROMISEOFTHEFUTURE (Pavan) 1, Mountain Jewel (Antony) 2, Don Carlos (Trevor) 3 and Hidden Dreams (Angad) 4. 3-1/2, 6-3/4 and 2. 1m 25.26s. Rs. 36 (w), 13, 11 and 15 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 42, FP: 69, Q: 32, Trinella: 115/55, Exacta: 546/305. Favourite: Mountain Jewel.

Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

8. INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,200M): FLAMING SWORD (Trevor) 1, Slice Of Luck (Sai Kiran) 2, Eclipse Pulse (G. Vivek) 3 and Feeling Good (Vinod Shinde) 4. 3-3/4, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 13.06s. Rs. 21 (w), 12, 14 and 18 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 46, FP: 36, Q: 31, Trinella: 169/122, Exacta: 1,456/1,050. Favourite: Flaming Sword.

Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: S. Dominic.

Jackpot: Rs. 11,898 (159 tkts); Runner-up: 2,151 377 (tkts); Treble (i): 20,363 (one tkt); (ii): 240 (162 tkts).

Moment to cherish: Zavaray S. Poonawalla and Mrs. Poonawalla, with Fynbos owners (from left) K.N. Dhunjibhoy, Anita J. Captain, Anosha Meyers Dhunjibhoy, trainer P. Shroff, and jockey P. Trevor, winner of the Zavaray S. Poonawalla Bangalore Summer Derby on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Veteran race horse trainer Ganapathy retires

Racing Correspondent
BENGALURU

Veteran horse trainer S. Ganapathy retired after a remarkable career at the Bangalore Turf Club on Sunday (July 13).

Ganapathy obtained his trainer's licence in the year 2000 winter season. He had a total of 945 winners in a 25 years racing career.

His first winner was Sandawar, and he claimed his first classic with Fantastic Belle in the Bangalore Oaks. Ganapathy also won the Poonawalla Breeders Multi-Million five times.

Mystical, the best horse in Indian racing history, competed in Dubai and won twice. Ganapathy is the first Indian trainer to win in the famed Dubai Racing Carnival. He won 25 Derbys, 4 Indian Turf Invitation Cups, 18 1000 Guineas, 16, 2000 Guineas, 12 Oaks, nine Fillies Trial Stakes and six Colts Trial Stakes.

He was felicitated by BTC Chairman Mr. R. Manjunath Ramesh.

Glorious innings: BTC chairman R. Manjunath Ramesh felicitates trainer S. Ganapathy, who retired at BTC on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

FIGHTBACK

Flintoff, Hamza shine; England u-19 ends day at 230 for five

GETTY IMAGES

Skipper Hamza Shaikh (84) and Rocky Flintoff (93) took England under-19 to 239 for five at stumps on day two of the Youth Test against India under-19 in Beckenham on Sunday. **The scores:** India u-19 540 in 112.5 overs (Mhatre 102, Ambrish 70, Green 3/74) vs England u-19 230/5 in 60 overs (Hamza Shaikh 84, Flintoff 93).

DOMINANT SHOW

West Indies bowls Australia out for 225 at the Sabina Park

AP

The West Indies produced another dominant day with the ball against a fragile Australia batting line-up to take the honours after the first day of the day-night third Test on Saturday.
The scores: Australia 225 in 70.3 overs (Green 46, Smith 48, Seales 3/59, Joseph 4/33, Greaves 3/56) vs West Indies 16/1 in 9 overs.

BIG WIN

Litton leads from the front as Bangladesh levels series

AP

Bangladesh snapped its six-game losing streak by defeating Sri Lanka by 83 runs in the second T20I in Dambulla on Sunday to level the three-match series. **The scores:** Bangladesh 177/7 in 20 overs (Litton 76, Shamim 48, Binura Fernando 3/31) bt Sri Lanka 94 in 15.2 overs (Nissanka 32, Rishad 3/18). **Toss:** Sri Lanka. **PoM:** Litton.

CLOSE RACE

Merlier pips van der Poel on final stretch, wins Stage 9

AFP

Tim Merlier won Stage 9 of the Tour de France at Chateauroux on Sunday after a heroic long-range escape from Mathieu van der Poel was caught in the final kilometre. There was no change atop the overall standings with Tadej Pogacar now holding a 54s advantage over Remco Evenepoel in second with Kevin Vauquelin third.

Late strikes boost England in gripping contest

Rahul holds the key as India needs 135 more on the final day with six wickets in hand; Washington's four-for helps the tourists bundle out the hosts for 192 in their second innings

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

It was pure cinema at Lord's on Sunday. There were heated arguments, animated conversations between players, and some banter among the fans over the time strategy.

And adding to the ebb and flow of the fourth day's play, England bounced back, picking up three quick wickets in the final 30 minutes to reduce India to 58 for four.

After setting India a target of 193, England tilted the game in its favour. As the pitch offered inconsistent bounce, the tone was set by Jofra Archer, who claimed the wicket of Yashasvi Jaiswal for the second time in the game.

Though K.L. Rahul and Karun Nair stitched together a partnership of 36 runs for the second wicket, an error in judgement from the latter allowed England to take control of the game. Karun had a few close shaves before Brydon Carse trapped him plumb in front, and followed it up with the big wicket of India captain Shubman Gill.

With 15 minutes remaining, India experimented by sending Akash Deep, but Stokes cleaned him up in the last over of the day, adding to the visitors' woes.

As the Indian batters headed back to the pavilion, visibly dejected, the mood in the England camp was quite jovial as it managed to come from behind and ensured the match was tantalisingly poised with the hosts needing six wickets and India 135 runs to win and go 2-1 up in the series.

There was drama throughout the day as the Indian bowlers made the most of the early conditions to trigger a top-order collapse before Ben Stokes and Joe Root ground out a 67-run stand for the fifth wicket to take England to 192.

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj started the proceedings with enough aggression. India lost a review as Siraj convinced Gill to take the referral for an lbw appeal against Crawley only to discover that it was sliding down the leg.

The England openers lived dangerously before Ben Duckett mistimed a pull to mid-on and Siraj celebrated in his face.

As the batters looked uncomfortable playing Bumrah, who was bowling from the Nursery End, Siraj trapped Ollie Pope in front after India successfully reviewed. Nitish Kumar Reddy was brought in to give Bumrah a break, and despite being hit for a boundary in his opening over, the youngster fought back and dismissed Crawley, who ended up hitting one to Jaiswal at gully.

Harry Brook tried to take things in his stride with a counter-attack, but Akash cleaned him up.

Root and Stokes added some stability before falling to the trap laid by Washington Sundar. Sensing that spinners were finding some grip, Gill persisted with Washington and the offie removed both the batters to peg England back.

He also sent back Jamie Smith and Shoaib Bashir.

However, the Indian batters let slip the advantage.

Prized scalps: Washington breaches the defence of England's batting mainstay Root while Carse traps the in-form Indian skipper Gill in front of the wicket. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
387 in 112.3 overs
INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
387 in 119.2 overs
ENGLAND — 2ND INNINGS
Zak Crawley c Jaiswal b Nitish 22 (*49b, 3x4*), Ben Duckett c Bumrah b Siraj 12 (*12b, 1x4*), Ollie Pope lbw b Siraj 4 (*17b, 1x4*), Joe Root b Washington 40 (*96b, 1x4*), Harry Brook b Akash 23 (*19b, 4x4, 1x6*), Ben Stokes b Washington 33 (*96b, 3x4*), Jamie Smith b Washington 8 (*14b*), Chris Woakes b Bumrah 10 (*33b, 1x4*), Brydon Carse b Bumrah 1 (4b), Jofra Archer (not out) 5 (25b, 1x4), Shoaib Bashir b Washington 2 (9b); Extras (b-25, lb-6, nb-1): 32; Total (in 62.1 overs): 192.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-22 (Duckett, 5.5 overs), 2-42 (Pope, 11.6), 3-50 (Crawley, 14.4), 4-87 (Brook, 21.3), 5-154 (Root, 42.4), 6-164 (Smith, 46.2), 7-181 (Stokes, 54.3), 8-182 (Carse, 55.1), 9-185 (Woakes, 57.3).
INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 16-3-38-2, Siraj 13-2-31-2, Nitish 5-1-20-1, Akash 8-2-30-1, Jadeja 8-1-20-0, Washington 12.1-2-22-4.
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Target 193
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Smith b Archer 0 (*7b*), K.L. Rahul (batting) 33 (*47b, 6x4*), Karun Nair lbw b Carse 14 (*33b, 1x4*), Shubman Gill lbw b Carse 6 (*9b, 1x4*), Akash Deep b Stokes 1 (*11b*); Extras (lb-3, nb-1): 4; Total (for four wkts. in 17.4 overs): 58.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Jaiswal, 1.4), 2-41 (Karun, 12.3), 3-53 (Gill, 14.6), 4-58 (Akash, 17.4).
ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 5-2-11-0, Archer 4-0-18-1, Stokes 4.4-0-15-1, Carse 4-1-11-2.

Sinner finds salvation in hallowed grass, dethrones Alcaraz

WIMBLEDON

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Jannik Sinner's emotionally restrained, methodical and precise tennis earned its greatest gift yet as he dethroned two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to win his first Wimbledon and fourth Major title.

For the World No. 1, it was sweet revenge for the Roland-Garros defeat, where Alcaraz had beaten him from three championship-points down in the fourth set. The 23-year-old is now the first Italian to win the singles trophy at SW19. For Alcaraz, it was a humbling experience as he was thoroughly outplayed, but for a brief period late in the opening set. It didn't help that the 22-year-old came up with a disastrous serving performance, landing just over half of his first serves and dumping seven double-faults.

The opening four games felt like a boxing feel out. Both players peppered every part of the service box in the hope of finding an ever-so-slight weakness. Once that was done and mental notes made, action shifted to the grass beyond the 21ft x 13.5ft area.

And it was Sinner's turn to break first, in the fifth game, with two fierce backhand drives setting things up. Alcaraz, though, restored parity in the eighth, capitalising on a slew of unforced errors.

Then, at 4-4, the Spaniard lifted his level. At 15-30, he sent a superb kick serve, a backhand winner and planted an ace to go 5-4 up. On the subsequent Sinner serve, on his second set-point, he hit the shot - rather block - of the match until then. A Sinner forehand that would have won the point against most players was not only tracked down but sent back in the form of a cross-court drop winner.

The crowd erupted, Alcaraz bounced up and down and left Sinner looking like someone who had just been struck by a lightning.

But Alcaraz's bane has always been his penchant to drift out at inopportune times. He started the second set with a double-fault and was duly broken. Even though he threatened each of Sinner's next three service games, the latter stonewalled all attempts.

It wasn't long before Sinner levelled it at one-set apiece, with two superb forehand winners, one down the line and the other hit cross-court on the run.

In the ninth game of the third stanza, Sinner sliced open the contest, with his forehand again doing the damage. At 30-30, he hit an inside-in winner, and another clean drive earned him an easy put away.

Alcaraz slipped and fell while chasing the last shot, and Sinner immediately stopped exulting and waited until the World No. 2 gave him a thumbs-up. The niceties, though, ended there as the reigning US Open and Australian Open champion took a two-sets-to-one lead with a blistering service winner. At 1-1 in the fourth, Sinner made the play again, earning a break-point with a looping backhand winner.

A thunderous backhand return ensured a 2-1 lead. When he held to 4-2 via a lucky net-cord at 40-30, lady luck, after deserting him in Paris last month, seemed to have crossed over to his corner. So much so that he even got out of a 15-40 hole serving at 4-3.

As Alcaraz held to 4-5, the crowd went up in chorus chanting the Spaniard's name. But Sinner silenced them with a cold-blooded hold that was finished off with a monstrous service winner.

Flying high: Sinner ended Alcaraz's reign with a dominant display. GETTY IMAGES

1 Sinner becomes the first Italian to lift the Wimbledon trophy and the first to win Slams on multiple surfaces

3 Alcaraz has tasted defeat after winning the first set for only the third time in 68 Grand Slam matches

5 Sinner is the fifth player (after Connors, Sampras, Federer and Nadal) aged 23 or under to hold three Major crowns simultaneously

81 Since 2000, only Nadal (86) has claimed more wins from his first 100 matches at Slams that Sinner

COMPILED BY **ANIRUDH VELAMURI**

INBRIEF

Marc Marquez cruises to German MotoGP win

Marc Marquez won a bruising German MotoGP on Sunday to mark his 200th premier class start in style and stretch his lead in the world championship. His brother Alex Marquez took second with Francesco Bagnaia third as only 10 riders finished, the lowest number completing a MotoGP since 2011.

Indian freestyle wrestlers win three more bronze medals

Three more Indian freestyle wrestlers – Sachin (86kg), Sachin (92kg), Jaspooran Singh (125kg) – landed bronze medals at the Asian under-20 championships in Bishkek on Sunday. With two gold, one silver and five bronze, India finished second behind Iran, which bagged four gold, two silver and a bronze, in freestyle competitions.

Stevenson retains WBC lightweight title

Unbeaten Shakur Stevenson outlasted hard-hitting William Zepeda in a tough back-and-forth battle to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight world title on a unanimous decision in New York on Saturday.

Messi on the double again as Miami beats Nashville

Lionel Messi continued his historic Major League Soccer scoring run on Saturday, netting two goals for the fifth game in a row to lift Inter Miami to a 2-1 win over Nashville. Miami's schedule continues on Wednesday against Cincinnati, with New York Red Bulls coming up next weekend.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs India: 3rd Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

T20I tri-series: Zimbabwe vs South Africa, FanCode, 4.30 p.m.

West Indies vs Australia: 3rd Test,day 4, FanCode, 12 a.m. (Tuesday)

England women clinch last-ball thriller to end series on a high

Openers Wyatt-Hodge and Dunkley set up the chase with a 101-run stand; Shafali's 41-ball 75 in vain for the Women in Blue

INDIA IN ENGLAND

ANI
BIRMINGHAM

England women clinched the final T20I of the series by five wickets in a nail-biting finish at Birmingham, chasing down India's 168-run target off the very last ball of the match to finish on a high.

Opener Danni Wyatt-Hodge led the charge on Saturday with a composed 56 off 37 deliveries, laced with nine boundaries. She was well supported by her opening partner Sophia Dunkley, who smashed 46 off 30 balls, including three fours and a six.

Flying start

The duo gave England a flying start, taking it to 50 inside the first six overs and 95 for no loss at the halfway mark.

Triumph to savour: Player-of-the-Series Shree Charani lifts the trophy with her teammates. AP

Dunkley was the first to depart, bowled by Radha Yadav for 46, with England at 101 in the 11th over. Wyatt-Hodge followed in the very next over, falling to Deepti Sharma, who then struck again to remove Maia Bouchier for 16.

Despite the wobble, England kept its chase on track and reached 150 in 17.2 overs.

The final over brought some drama as Tammy Beaumont (30) and Amy Jones (10) were both dismissed by Arundhati Reddy, but England held its nerve to seal a win as India won the series 3-2.

Earlier, England won the toss and opted to bowl.

India found itself in early trouble at 19 for two in 2.3 overs after Smriti Mandhana (eight) and Jemimah Rodrigues (one) were dismissed cheaply.

Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Shafali Verma stitched together a stand of 66 runs before Charlie Dean broke the partnership.

Harleen Deol was trapped in front of the wicket for four by Sophie Ecclestone.

Shafali was in top form, hammering 75 off just 41 balls, including 13 fours and a six.

India lost momentum after Shafali's departure. Deepti (seven) was dismissed by Dean, leaving India at 126 for six in the 16th over.

Wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh chipped in with a quickfire 24 off 16. Dean starred with the ball for England, finishing with three for 23.

The scores: India 167/7 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 75, Sophie Ecclestone 2/28, Charlie Dean 3/23) lost to England 168/5 in 20 overs (Sophia Dunkley 46, Danni Wyatt-Hodge 56, Deepti Sharma 2/31, Arundhati Reddy 2/47).
Toss: England.
PoM: Dean; **PoS:** Shree Charani.

WPL has been an integral part of the progress of the players: Muzumdar

Press Trust of India
BIRMINGHAM

India coach Amol Muzumdar credited the landmark achievement of clinching the first-ever women's T20I series win against England to the Women's Premier League (WPL), saying it had played an "integral part" in the progress of the players. He also credited the competitive domestic season for the success.

India lost the fifth and final match on Saturday but sealed the series 3-2.

"WPL has been an integral part of the progress of the players. There's no doubt about it. But there are other tournaments as well in India which we really have a good look at it. There are so many domestic players playing.

"WPL is just a part of the initiative of the BCCI. So, I think it's been a happy hunting ground for us, the WPL. But at the same time,

Muzumdar. GETTY IMAGES

there are other tournaments which also take the importance," said Muzumdar during the post-match press conference after India lost the fifth T20I by five wickets off the last ball.

Debutant India left-arm spinner Shree Charani played a crucial role in the series victory, bagging 10 wickets, and Muzumdar-,said she had been "the find of the WPL."

Shree Charani, 20, was the Player-of-the-Series.

"I guess, you know, from WPL we identified her and then I think her progress has been fantastic. She's been phenomenal in this series. We had a good look at her in the Sri Lanka series where we played a tri-series against South Africa and Sri Lanka. So, I think she's been the find," Muzumdar said.

Muzumdar said that the key takeaway from the series was India's bowling and fielding which complemented the already-strong batting this time around.

"We had a game plan before we set off from the Indian shores. We had a good camp and we focused quite a bit on our bowling and fielding, which showed in this series. I think the biggest takeaways without a doubt have been our bowling and our fielding.

"Having said that, the batting has been our strength for a long time. A year-and-a-half that I've been in charge, I think we've played some fearless cricket as far as batting is concerned. The two departments which we wanted to take care of was bowling and fielding," he said.

"And I think this series has shown the results."

Radha Yadav's bowling and fielding also caught the attention during the series and Muzumdar said the improvement was because of the effort the left-arm spinner had put in at the domestic level.

"She's been phenomenal. She puts in a lot of hard work. Not many people know it, but behind the scenes there's a lot of hard work that she puts in as far as fielding is concerned. Radha is somebody we actually have to stop her sometimes."

With the T20 World Cup scheduled in England in 11 months' time, Muzumdar said the tour had given his side good preparation for the global event.

Interim Committee firm on holding BFI elections by August 31

BOXING

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Two days after Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president P.T. Usha formed a fact-finding committee to ascertain the reason behind the delay in the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) elections, the Interim Committee (IC) running the federation expressed its commitment to hold the polls by the August 31 deadline set by World Boxing (WB).

Following a communication from the Union Sports Ministry on July 5 regarding this issue, the IOA constituted a panel, comprising its treasurer Sahdev Yadav, executive committee member B.S. Bajwa and advocate Payal Kakra, and asked it to submit its findings and recommendations within seven days.

Referring to the extension of its tenure by the world body, IC executive director Col. (retd.) Arun Malik said, "WB has clearly mandated that the BFI elections be held before August 31 and... we are fully committed to delivering free and fair polls within that timeline."

The BFI elections were due on February 2 last.

Underlining the BFI's autonomy, the IC said the process underway had been 'transparent' and the Ministry and the IOA had been kept in the loop. It added that discussions on the roadmap for conducting the elections had been held with WB.

"The only challenges to a smooth transition stem from ongoing legal proceedings," said the IC.

Prarthana makes doubles final of WTA event

Sports Bureau

Prarthana Thombare and Arianne Hartono beat Kayla Cross and Maribella Zamarripa 4-6, 6-3, [12-10] in the doubles semifinals of the $200,000 WTA tennis tournament in Newport.

In the $15,000 ITF men's event in Monastir, Tunisa, Karan Singh won the singles title as he breezed past Toufik Sahtali of Algeria 6-0, 6-2 in the final.

It was the second singles title in the professional circuit for the 22-year-old Karan who trains at the Roundglass Academy in Chandigarh.

Other results: $200,000 Challenger, Newport: Doubles: Semifinals: Hans Hach Verdugo (Mex) & Cristian Rodriguez (Col) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Reese Stalder (USA) 6-2, 6-7(6), [13-11].

$30,000 ITF men, Dallas: Semifinals: Alex Rybakov (USA) bt Dhakshineswar Suresh 6-4, 6-4.

$30,000 ITF men, Bastia Lucciana, France: Doubles: Final: Tanguy Genier & Johan Nikles (Sui) bt Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-1, 1-6, [10-8].

Vantika crushes Lagno; Divya downs Injac

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BATUMI

Indian Grandmasters Vantika Agrawal and Divya Deshmukh staked their claims for the pre-quarterfinals after winning the first game of the third round against Kateryna Lagno of Russia and Teodora Injac of Serbia respectively in the FIDE World Women's Chess Cup here on Saturday.

With the $691,250 knockout event down to last 32 participants, Vantika crushed higher ranked Lagno, giving another indication of her fast growing stature among the Indian women.

Vantika was in her elements though, as she went for complications at the first opportunity and it was clear that Lagno was no match for the Indian in the tactics that emerged.

Divya was the favourite and she lived up to the expectations by beating Injac with black pieces. She is now a firm favourite among the five Indians remaining in the fray.

Vantika FIDE

Meanwhile, the highest-rated Indian Koneru Humpy settled for a draw with Kulon Klaudia of Poland in what was a bit of a let down with white pieces. D. Harika also could not win and signed peace with Tsolakidou Stavroula while another fancied Indian R. Vaishali played out a draw with Carissa Yip of United States.

However, the day belonged to Vantika as she stole the limelight against one of the fancied Russians in the event. The Russian players here play under the FIDE flag. An erroneous 20th move by Lagno gave Vantika an extra piece and she never looked back.

Malaysia National junior team edges CBDT; HUTN, SAI-NCoE play out draw

MURUGAPPA GOLD CUP

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The 96th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup invitation hockey tournament served up a wonderful treat to a modest gathering of spectators at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Sunday.

Three matches produced a total of 21 goals with each match outdoing the other in terms of quality and suspense.

In the first match of the day, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN) and SAI-NCoE (Bhopal) were involved in an eight-goal thriller, with both teams sharing the honours in a Pool-A tie.

Later in the two Pool-B matches, Indian Navy produced a robust performance to outwit Karnataka 4-2 while the Malaysian National junior team delivered a stand-out performance under pressure to edge out Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) 4-3.

After the shocking win over Indian Army the other day, much was expected from HUTN and the host did impress in the first quarter, attacking and defending with aplomb, leading 2-0.

Making no mistake: HUTN captain Somanna converts a penalty stroke. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

However, SAI-NCoE fought back admirably scoring thrice in the second quarter exposing HUTN's defence.

The hosts, however, pulled up its socks in the third quarter by plugging the gaps and improving in the final third. HUTN captain B. P. Somanna was the star as he marshalled the team admirably. His second goal, off a penalty stroke, enabled it to equalise 3-3 and Balachandar scored off a rebound in a matter of minutes. However, TN's joy was short-lived as Amit Yadav converted.

The Malaysian junior team delivered a sparkling performance, especially through the flanks to beat CBDT, which put immense pressure on the young side in all the quarters.

Malaysia came up trumps, with a last-gasp goal through Shakir Azimuddin, who scored a scorching grounder off a penalty corner.

The results: Pool-A: HUTN 4 (Patras Tirkey 3, B. P. Somanna 15 & 41, Balachandar 44) drew with SAI-NCoE (Bhopal) 4 (Mohammad Zaid Khan 20, Manjeet 26, Manish Sahani 29, Amit Yadav 47).

Pool-B: Indian Navy 4 (Sushil Dhanwar 3, 20 & 34, Prashanth 53) bt Karnataka 2 (Bhrath Mahalingppa 12, G. Vishwas 35).

Malaysia National junior team 4 (Muhd. Danish Aiman 20, Mohd. Harris Iskandar 41, Shakir Azimuddin 54 & 60) bt CBDT 3 (Pranam Gowda 24, Pardeep Singh Mor 27, Vikash Choudhary 57).

Neeru and Lakshay miss medal round by three points

Sports Bureau

Neeru Dhanda and Lakshay Sheoran shot a combined score of 140 out of 150 and missed the medal round by three points in mixed trap in the Shotgun World Cup that concluded in Lonato, Italy, on Sunday.

Neeru who was fourth in women's trap, shot 74 out of 75, but Lakshay could not catch up with her. The pair placed 10th.

The top four teams, Australia, Britain and two pairs of Spain had all shot 143, and had to go through a shoot-off to decide the teams that would fight for gold and bronze.

Australia beat Spain 45-41 for the gold.

The results: Trap: Mixed team: 1. Australia-2 (Mitchell Iles, Laetisha Scanlan) 45 (143)14; 2. Spain (Alberto Fernandez, Fatima Galvez) 41 (143)15; 3. Britain (Matthew Coward-Holley, Ellie Seward) 38 (143)5; 4. Spain-2 (Andres Garcia, Mar Molne Magrina) 36 (143)7; 10. India (Neeru Dhanda, Lakshay Sheoran) 140; 23. India-2 (Preeti Rajak, Zorawar Singh Sandhu) 138.